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PAUL A. JOOSTEN

General Secretary
International Military Tribunal

Nuremberg, 9 August 1948

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NATIONAL SOCIALISM

BASIC PRINCIPLES, THEIR APPLICATION BY THE NAZI PARTY'S FOREIGN ORGANIZATION, AND THE USE OF GERMANS ABROAD FOR NAZI AIMS

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> To educate to political creativeness is just as impossible as to educate to genius. Education can only furnish the spiritual atmosphere, can only prepare the spiritual living-space for the politically creative personality by forming a uniform political consciousness in the socialistic personality, and in the development of politically creative personalities it can at the most give special attention to those values of character and spirit which are of decisive importance for the development of this personality."[42]

Goebbels in *The Nature and Form of National Socialism* (document 2, *post* p. 170) emphasizes the responsibility of the party for the leadership of the state:

> "The party must always continue to represent the hierarchy of National Socialist leadership. This minority must always insist upon its prerogative to control the state. It must keep the way open for the German youth which wishes to take its place in this hierarchy. In reality the hierarchy has fewer rights than duties! It is responsible for the leadership of the state and it solemnly relieves the people of this responsibility. It has the duty to control the state in the best interests and to the general welfare of the nation."[43]

Dr. Frick, German Minister of the Interior, in his chapter in *Germany Speaks* indicates the exclusive position of the party in the Third Reich:

> "National Socialist Germany, however, is not merely a unitary state: it is also a unitary nation and its governance is based on the principle of leadership . . .
>
> "In National Socialist Germany, leadership is in the hands of an organised community, the National Socialist Party; and as the latter represents the will of the nation, the policy adopted by it in harmony with the vital interests of the nation is at the same time the policy adopted by the country . . . The National Socialist Party is the only political party in Germany and therefore the true representative of the people . . ."[44]

To Dr. Ley, the party is identical with the Führer. As he wrote in the *Angriff* on April 9, 1942 (document 6, *post* p. 184), "The National Socialist Party is Hitler, and Hitler is the party."

The role of the party in legislation, in political matters, and in the appointment of Government officials is indicated by the Führer's decree of May 29, 1941,[45] as amplified by the order of January 16, 1942, concerning its execution.[46] (Document 9, *post* p. 212). This order provides that all legislative proposals and proposed laws and decrees, as well as any proposed changes therein, must pass through and receive the approval of the Party Chancelry.

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[42] *Ibid.*, pp. 37-38.
[43] Goebbels, *op. cit.*, p. 19.
[44] *Germany Speaks*, pp. 30-31.
[45] *Reichsgesetzblatt* (1941), p. 295.
[46] *Ibid.* (1942), p. 35.

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ORGANIZATIONS EMPLOYED BY THE NAZIS TO REGULATE THE LIFE AND ACTIVITIES OF GERMANS ABROAD

The Foreign Organization

1. HISTORY AND GROWTH OF POWER

The first National Socialist organizations among Germans abroad were for the most part founded independently, without direct stimulus or encouragement from German sources. However, in 1930, a small group of Nazi Party men in Hamburg, having become conscious of the possibilities for organized party activity among Germans abroad, undertook the preparatory work for a Party Office to deal with problems concerning party members and Germans abroad. This Office was formally established by an order of the Reich's Nazi Organization Directorate of May 1, 1931, being designated then as the "Foreign Section of the Reich's Directorate of the NSDAP".[1] (Document 23, *post* p. 285). With headquarters in Hamburg, the Office was placed under the direction of Dr. Hans Nieland. According to this order every party member abroad, or residing permanently in a foreign country, was under the supervision of the Foreign Section of the Nazi Party. The first phase of the work, up to 1933, was devoted to a consolidation of the Nazi groups abroad already in existence and the establishment of numerous new branches and local groups, so that the first unification of these into groups covering an entire foreign country was soon necessary. In fact, the first country-wide Nazi Party organization abroad was founded in Paraguay in 1931.

At that time, however, the Nazi Party was too much concerned with German affairs to place much stress on foreign activities. In the first months after the party's accession to power in January 1933, it was even questioned whether the existence of a Foreign Section was justified. Since then, however, it has apparently consistently proved its usefulness, having grown steadily in power and importance. On May 8, 1933 it was put in charge of its present leader, Ernst Wilhelm Bohle, a protégé of Rudolf Hess, who was Hitler's Deputy at that time, and on October 3, 1933 it was placed directly under Hess, Bohle becoming a member of the staff of the Führer's Deputy with the rank of Gauleiter. The present designa-

[1] Ehrich, *op. cit.*, p. 9.

tion, "Foreign Organization of the NSDAP",[1] was ordered by Hess on February 17, 1934.[2] In view of the growth of the organization under Bohle's energetic leadership and to further an increased development the central office of the Foreign Organization was transferred to Berlin in the middle of March 1936. The Maritime Division, which dealt with German seamen, remained in Hamburg.

Since there had been considerable friction between the agents of the Foreign Organization and the officials of the German Government's foreign services, the German Foreign Service (diplomatic and consular officials) was inducted in October 1935 as a professional group into the Foreign Organization, thus insuring the collaboration of the Foreign Service men abroad with the Nazi Party agents. With regard to this, Dr. Ehrich, one of Gauleiter Bohle's chief aides, is quoted by the Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro, the official German news agency, as saying, "a decisive step has been taken in strengthening National Socialist leadership among Germans abroad; it is to be hoped that this new arrangement will contribute to a close cooperation between party and state in all fields of foreign effort. Every German abroad knew that only through the Foreign Organization and its numerous cells could he maintain a real connection with what was happening in the Reich. The official of the Foreign Service must feel himself to be a true fellow German and the trusted helper and National Socialist friend of his countrymen."

The Foreign Organization received its definitive sanction when on January 30, 1937 Bohle was transferred to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, assuming the title "Head of the Foreign Organization in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs". Whereas formerly the jurisdiction of his organization had nominally merely extended to Nazi Party members abroad, at this time it was explicitly enlarged to include *all* German citizens abroad. The preamble to this decree gives as the purpose of Bohle's installation in the Foreign Office "the unified care and control [*Betreuung*] of the German citizens in foreign countries".[4] The vast extent of Bohle's powers is clear, the preamble stating further that "the direction and handling of all matters concerning German citizens abroad are transferred to him". Although according to the provision of the decree Bohle was placed personally and directly under the German Foreign Ministry, the Foreign Ministry appears to have exercised only a very general control over his work, and it is known that he possessed the privilege of addressing instructions, through the German diplomatic pouches, to the party's agents abroad.

[1] The Foreign Organization of the NSDAP is known in German as "Die Auslands-Organisation der NSDAP", or more familiarly as the "AO".

[2] Ehrich, *op. cit.*, p. 9.

[3] *Ibid.*, p. 31.

To further reinforce the party's grip upon the Foreign Office, which was progressively and effectively tightened during 1937, the officials of the Foreign Office and all members of the Foreign Service throughout the world were organized into a party group, an "*Ortsgruppe*", under the authority of Bohle. While the group rested under the supreme authority of Bohle in his capacity as representative of the party sovereignty in the Foreign Office, Dr. Rosenberg and a Herr Kruger were named *Ortsgruppenleiter* and deputy leader, respectively, both being Bohle men brought into the Foreign Office from the party's Foreign Organization. On December 22, 1937 it was announced in the *Völkischer Beobachter*, the official party newspaper, that Bohle had been given the rank of Secretary of State in the Foreign Office and that decisions taken by him and issued in the form of orders with his signature would have the force of "ministerial decisions" or instructions of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. It was understood that this established an even greater independence for Bohle and that it would enable Bohle to compel members of the regular Foreign Service to promote the work of his Foreign Organization.

In the official party program of the NSDAP, published first in 1927, Gottfried Feder wrote, "Not to 'assimilate themselves' to foreign ways but to maintain their own superior German ways, that must be the task of Germans abroad and of our official representatives. An iron broom must go through the dusty Foreign Office for this purpose also."[1] In fulfilling this demand, as the Nazis have done with such logical consequence in so many other spheres of activity, Bohle and the party's Foreign Organization served as the "iron broom".

2. STRUCTURE AND ACTIVITIES

The Foreign Organization of the Nazi Party has a curious double position and status in the complicated arrangement of the Nazi party-state. As we have seen, the director of the party's Foreign Organization, Bohle, was appointed Chief of the Foreign Organization in the Foreign Office, and as such he is directly and personally responsible to the Foreign Minister. However, his field of activity as leader of the party's Foreign Organization and his responsibility as such to the Führer's Deputy[4] remain unchanged. Although Bohle himself moved to the Foreign Office, taking with him many members of his former staff, the Foreign Organization of the party as such remained in its quarters at 4A Tiergarten Strasse, Berlin, continuing to operate

[1] Feder, *Das Programm der NSDAP* (Munich, Franz Eher Verlag, Central Publishing House of the NSDAP, 1933), p. 42 (1st ed. 1927).

[4] After Hess' flight to England, the Office of the Führer's Deputy was redesignated by a decree of May 29, 1941 the "Party Chancelry" and placed under the direction of Reichsleiter Martin Bormann, formerly Hess' staff leader. *Reichsgesetzblatt* (1941), p. 295.

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In a talk at Vienna on October 24, 1936 Bohle went so far as to say:

> "For the Foreign Organization of the NSDAP and for me, as its responsible leader, it is a particular pleasure to be able to say after only a few years that the unconditional will to cooperation with the new state has overcome and swept along every single German national regardless of all boundaries and unto the farthest corners of the earth." [32] (Document 27, *post* p. 358.)

(b) National Socialist Racial Community as the Basis for Unification

Whatever success the Foreign Organization has had in the unification of all Germandom abroad, from the ideologic side, doubtless comes from the principle of the German "racial community". As Bohle himself stated at the Foreign Organization's meeting in 1937:

> "Without the Führer and his conception, which takes hold of and encompasses all Germans, it would be senseless to attempt unification of Germandom abroad. The German racial community, preached by Adolf Hitler, was the only basis on which a unification of Germandom abroad could have taken place. It is necessary to keep this fact in mind, when on looking back we confirm how differently it looks today out there in comparison with the previous period." [33] (Document 26–A, *post* pp. 347–348.)

No meeting of the Foreign Organization, no address or article of any of its directors, fails to stress the significance of the "racial community" for Germans abroad. At the party congress in 1936 Bohle declared:

> ". . . our Germanism abroad is composed of individual Germans who can only live as Germans if they form among themselves an *indestructible community* and if this community is incorporated in the community which Adolf Hitler has given the racial comrades in the Reich. *We believe in the eternal value of the race and the blood* and we feel ourselves the appointed *protectors of these values in foreign Germanism.* A state which is built on the iron laws of blood and race, like the National Socialist Reich, cannot do other than accept its own blood always and everywhere even in the remotest corner of the earth." [34] (Document 25, *post* pp. 314–315.)

At the Foreign Organization's annual assembly of Germans living abroad, in 1937 at Stuttgart, Rudolf Hess, at that time the Führer's Deputy, addressed the audience as follows:

> "My German racial comrades, men and women! German seamen!

[32] *Wir Deutsche in der Welt* (published by the Verband Deutscher Vereine im Ausland: Berlin, 1937), p. 21.

[33] Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro, 1st morning bulletin of Aug. 30, 1937.

[34] *Der Parteitag der Ehre* (Munich, 1936), pp. 124–125.

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"You stand before me as a slice of the great German racial community, the racial community which extends beyond the borders of our Reich, for National Socialism has not only at home created a national community transcending all classes and groups in a way previously unknown, but it has also included German racial comrades in foreign countries. It has made them conscious and proud members of this racial community!"[25] (Document 26–A, *post* pp. 351–352.)

In an account of the Führer's talk to Germans from abroad at the 1935 party congress it is recorded that—

"The Führer then expressed the idea that the German people is today not merely a state, but that it has become a racial corpus [*Volkskörper*] which is pulsing with a vital and inner life. This is the great thing which National Socialism has given to the German people: that the German who goes to a foreign country nowadays is not a lost member but remains a living member of the people's community. The individual knows then that his life for the community is not in any sense a lost life but that he can be somehow useful and helpful for the totality of the people even though he may remain abroad. That is the miracle of the National Socialist organization and leadership of the people."[26] (Document 28, *post* p. 368.)

Although the "racial community" is the foremost idea propounded as the basis for unifying all Germans abroad, other typically Nazi ideas are often set forth as binding notions for all Germans. For instance, Hess, at the 1937 assembly of Germans living abroad, invited the participants to attend the Reich's party congress in the following terms:

"You will see the man who created the idea of the Führer, and who himself as the first Führer has put with this idea the strongest clamp around Germany and all the Germans of the world."[27] (Document 26–A, *post* p. 353.)

(c) Systematic Opposition to Assimilation of Germans

The idea of "racial community", of course, entails the repudiation of any assimilation by the populations of foreign countries. Most striking expressions of this are found in Bohle's address at the party congress in 1936:

"The Führer had to come in order to hammer into all of us the fact that the German cannot choose and may not choose whether or not he will be German but that he was sent into this world by God as a German and that God thereby had laid upon him as a German duties of which he cannot divest himself without committing treason to Providence. *Therefore, we believe and we know that the German everywhere is a German*—whether he lives in the Reich or in Japan, in France or in China, or anywhere else in the world. *Not countries or continents, not climate or environment but blood and race determine the world of ideas of the German.*"[28] (Document 25, *post* p. 315.)

[25] Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro, 3d morning bulletin of Aug. 30, 1937.
[26] *Der Parteitag der Freiheit* (Munich, 1935), p. 120.
[27] Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro, 1st forenoon bulletin of Aug. 30, 1937.

Accordingly:

"The Foreign Organization wishes to preserve for the Reich every German wherever he may be in the world, be he rich or poor, young or old, in the knowledge that no sin is greater than that of *voluntarily* abandoning German blood."[29] (Document 25, *post* p. 315.)

Furthermore:

"It is not necessary for the new Reich to permit its racial comrades abroad inactively to fall prey to foreign and un-German ideas so that they may then become estranged from the Reich itself."[30] (Document 25, *post* p. 316.)

In the 1937 meeting he expressed the same idea thus:

"We foreign German National Socialists reject the conception of the universal German, whose prime endeavor is to adapt himself everywhere, because this universal German not only makes himself ridiculous among the foreigners but also consciously or unconsciously repudiates his Germanism with this self-abandonment."[31] (Document 26–A, *post* p. 349.)

At the same meeting Rudolf Hess stated clearly and bluntly:

"Under the leadership of the Foreign Organization, Germandom abroad is also becoming more and more *filled with the National Socialist spirit*. The Foreign Organization of the NSDAP has brought together the Germans out there, who even long after the seizure of power were disunited and split by class differences, and joined them with Adolf Hitler's Reich. The National Socialist care for Germandom abroad is maintaining an enormous number of Germans for the nation, who otherwise would be absorbed as cultural fertilizer for other nations."[32] Document 26–A, *post* p. 352.)

(d) Obligation To Remain Loyal to Nazi Germany

The summons is accordingly issued to all Germans abroad to remain German, and this with its Nazi implications is their prime obligation. At the 1937 meeting Baron von Neurath, then the German Foreign Minister, related this in an old-fashioned way to the notion of protection, saying:

[28] *Der Parteitag der Ehre* (Munich, 1937), p. 125.
[29] *Ibid.*, p. 125.
[30] *Ibid.*, p. 126.
[31] Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro, 2d morning bulletin of Aug. 30, 1937.
[32] Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro, 3d morning bulletin of Aug. 30, 1937.

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does not place spies and similar agents in the light of publicity."[43] (Document 29, *post* p. 370.)

In this connection the Nazi leaders were wont to profess that National Socialism was not an article for export. In 1937 Hess used these strong words:

> "*We can declare with a pure conscience: We do not want National Socialism to trickle into other peoples as poison! We likewise do not wish to force it on other peoples. We do not even want to give it away to other peoples. On the contrary: We are jealously concerned to keep National Socialism for ourselves.*"[44] (Document 26-A, *post* p. 352.)

Again at Budapest in 1938 Bohle repeated this:

> "Anyone who has concerned himself even superficially with the doctrines of National Socialism in Germany must know that this philosophy is a purely internal point of view which we jealously protect and never expect to export."[45] (Document 29, *post* pp. 374-375.)

In 1938 Hess told the assembled Germans from abroad:

> "You have joined up in the Foreign Organization of the NSDAP in order to cultivate your Germanism and in order to be good National Socialists. Your Germanism and your National Socialism are your own private concern. You are not engaged in any '*pénétration pacifique*', you do not at all seek 'in a peaceful way to permeate' the host peoples with National Socialism. No, your Germanism and your National Socialism are your own private concern and remain also your most private concern."[46] (Document 30-A, *post* p. 385.)

In October 1937 in London Bohle expressed in classic terms what the National Socialists abroad claimed to be doing:

> "The National Socialists do not disseminate hatred and discord, but are anxious to deliver the messages of goodwill emanating from a country whose Leader loves peace because he loves his people and wants to make them happy."[47] (Document 31, *post* p. 396.)

(g) German Citizens? Or All Those of German Origin?

With regard to the question whether the activities of the Foreign Organization extended beyond German citizens to include German racial comrades of foreign citizenship, it will be noted that the activi-

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[43] *Jahrbuch für auswärtige Politik* (Berlin, 1938), p. 19.
[44] Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro, 1st forenoon bulletin of Aug. 30, 1937.
[45] *Jahrbuch für auswärtige Politik* (Berlin, 1938), p. 25.
[46] *Der Montag* (daily newspaper of Berlin, Germany), 2d ed., Aug. 29, 1938.
[47] *Germany Speaks*, pp. 341-342.

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ties of the Foreign Organization are usually discussed in terms of German racial comrades in general. No distinction is made, especially in the earlier speeches, between German citizens and those of German origin who had adopted citizenship in another country. From 1937 on, however, in view of the growing opposition to the Foreign Organization's activities from neighboring European countries and countries abroad, the leaders of the Foreign Organization found it expedient to state explicitly that their work was only concerned with German citizens.

At the Foreign Organization's meeting in Stuttgart in 1937 Bohle affirmed:

> "We concern ourselves with our citizens in foreign countries and only with our citizens, and we care for their connection with the Reich and for the maintenance of their Germanism."[48] (Document 26–A, *post* p. 349.)

A month later in London Bohle repeated the same profession:

> "Within the scope of the Foreign Office I am responsible for all questions that concern citizens of the Reich living abroad. The fact that I have nothing whatever to do with non-German nationals—either in my capacity as a member of the National Socialist Party or owing to my connection with the Foreign Office—has been emphasised so often as to require no further reference. All statements to the effect, for instance, that I make it my business to organise the German minorities in foreign countries are pure inventions; and nobody knows this better than the governments of the countries concerned. I am here referring, of course, to those of German origin abroad who are citizens of the countries in which they live."[49] (Document 31, *post* p. 391.)

Again at Budapest in 1938 Bohle explicitly repeated this declaration made in London, adding:

> "The German Reich has never expected or wished that the Germans of Hungarian nationality should be anything but a true and loyal part of the Hungarian state. If attempts are made by individuals or irresponsible organizations to arouse Germans of Hungarian nationality against the Hungarian state, I can give the emphatic assurance that such plots will be most sharply condemned on the part of Germany."[50] (Document 29, *post* p. 374.)

As Bohle put the issue:

> "The interest of the German Reich in Germans of Hungarian nationality is not political but purely cultural."[51] (Document 29, *post* p. 374).

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[48] Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro, 2d morning bulletin of Aug. 30, 1937.
[49] *Germany Speaks*, p. 334.
[50] *Jahrbuch für auswärtige Politik* (Berlin, 1938), p. 24.
[51] *Ibid.*

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"Brilliant as this development of the VDA, which encompasses today over 2,000,000 members, and of the whole Germandom movement appears, it is not yet at an end, and ought not to come to an end, until it has reached the entire German race, led the last lost son back into his father's house, has secured the last field fertilized by German sweat and blood."[44] (Document 32–A, *post* p. 425.)

The general background for the VDA's work is indicated by the explanatory note at the beginning of the chapter in *Der nationalsozialistische Staat* containing extracts of Steinacher's address at Passau:

"There has been a Germandom in foreign countries since the 13th century, when German settlers migrated to the European east and southeast, and since the 17th century, when these isolated German settlements were increased and strengthened, and when Germans as farmers and as artisans migrated to North America. The small German Reich of Bismarck left millions of Germans outside of its borders, and the Treaty of Versailles separated from the Reich still further territory inhabited by Germans.

"To the pure state-thinking of the 19th century, Germans in foreign countries, who were not citizens of the Reich, were counted as foreigners. . . . One spoke of German-Russians, instead of Russian-Germans, of German-Bohemians, instead of Sudeten-Germans, etc. The Reich did not concern itself about them, in order to avoid political complications. Merely the VDA, the 'Volksbund (formerly Verein) für das Deutschtum im Ausland', maintained the connection between Germandom in the Reich and Germandom in foreign countries. Its slogan was 'Germans of all countries, unite!'"[45]

(Document 34, *post* p. 433.)

The world-wide scope of the VDA's work is also clearly stated by Schäfer:

"We see that the sphere of the VDA's work has become very great, it encompasses the entire planet, and it is by far not able to satisfy the demands made upon it. Also for this reason its aim must remain: the unification of all Germans to one great community of destiny, to a nation."[46] (Document 32–A, *post* p. 426.)

Pamphlets and manifestoes of the VDA leave no doubt that among the "lost sons" are millions of citizens of the United States. The United States is included in the long list of countries containing German racial comrades, in an advertisement appearing February 22, 1934 in the *Berliner Börsen Zeitung*, an authoritative Berlin newspaper, which further states:

"The Germans are a people of 100 millions!"

[44] *Meyer's Lexikon* (Leipzig, 1925), vol. 3, p. 703.

[45] Schäfer, *op. cit.*, p. 29.

[46] *Der nationalsozialistische Staat*, pp. 215–216. Verein was changed to Volksbund in 1933.

[47] Schäfer, *op cit.*, p. 32.

"The great German racial community is fighting all over the whole planet."

"The VDA is the trustee of the 30 million Germans in foreign countries!"

(Document 35–A, *post* p. 436.)

Concerning the German emigrants to North America, Dr. Schäfer wrote in his 1933 VDA pamphlet:

"Doubtless the Germans would have possessed greater powers of resistance against America's Anglo-Saxonism, if a strong German Government had stood behind them and supported them in their first measures toward the maintenance and cultivation of Germanism, as did the English Government for its emigrants."

"As long as the German Government or a great part of the German people did not stand behind them [the German emigrants], they were powerless. In these years the German nationality lost 20 million persons in the United States, to the great detriment of Germany later."[47]

(Document 32–A, *post* p. 422.)

In a VDA handbill of the same period, seeking new contributing members, under the title "Every Third German Lives in a Foreign Country" 10 to 12 million Germans are listed as residing in the United States. From this handbill are also taken the following statements:

"There are Germans on the whole planet. How many? That's hard to say. As a result of the indifference of the old homeland countless numbers of these have long since forgotten their German language and German ways. Millions have drowned in the melting pot of the United States alone. The number of Germans in the world, however, certainly still amounts to nearly ONE HUNDRED MILLION!

"Think of these animated by a unified will. They would be an enormous energy, a firm foundation for our future, for the German economy, industry, and prestige in the world, *Lebensraum* with *source of employment opportunity for us all.* We want to create this will! Help us!

. . . . . .

"Germans are stretched over the planet like a net. There is no city on earth where Germans have not gotten a foothold as businessmen, scarcely a country in which they do not dwell as settlers. The German name rings out throughout the whole world. We lack only one thing: the will to stand together everywhere, as the others do. If this will is once at hand, the German language will never die out, German characteristics will never slip away, and the German economy will always flourish.

"Germans are still migrating out into the world. Thus it was for centuries, so it still is today. The past has cast away German blood, donated it to foreign peoples. This is all over! We also want finally to be a people like all the peoples of the earth. Lend

[47] *Ibid.*, pp. 7, 8.

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The DAI

(Deutsches Ausland-Institut)

1. NATURE AND SIGNIFICANCE

The Deutsches Ausland-Institut was founded in 1917 with the express purpose of furthering German interests abroad by maintaining contact with all those of German extraction who had migrated or were migrating to foreign countries. Established in Stuttgart because of the heavy emigration originating from southwestern Germany, its scope was not restricted to this section. In fact, the DAI possesses the most comprehensive collection of material concerning all Germandom abroad. Even in pre-Nazi days, however, it was not merely a research institute. Its diverse collections of material were always available in the interest of Germandom abroad, and the DAI, furthermore, not only engaged in propagandistic work through its magazines, press releases, and publication of books but also had departments for advice to emigrants, for employment, legal matters, and information. In the words of a standard German encyclopedia:

> "The DAI represents, especially since the completion in 1925 of its new Home of Germandom [*Haus des Deutschtums*], the appointed central organ for the connection between the homeland and Germandom abroad."[1]

A reliable confidential source, reporting in 1937 on the work of the DAI, furnished the following details concerning the separate branches of the DAI's activities:

> "*Research and Information Service*
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> "The Institute keeps itself posted concerning the cultural and business activities of Germans in foreign parts and maintains lists of German clubs and firms which are available to reliable persons wishing to enter into correspondence with these groups. In a certain sense it thus helps to further German trade, as it handles inquiries of a business nature and facilitates the making of initial contacts. The Institute, moreover, keeps a card index file of the family history of Germans who have left the Fatherland, bearing in particular upon their 'racial integrity'. Through its correspondents abroad who report directly to it the Institute is informed of the status and progress of 'Germanism' in particular countries. The reaction of the resident population is also recorded in special reports and clippings from the local press. The Institute is thus in a sense the seismograph which registers everything relating to the cause of 'Germanism'.
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> "*Propaganda Work*
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> "The Institute is one, but probably the most important, of the agencies which prepare and disseminate propaganda abroad in

[1] *Meyer's Lexikon* (Leipzig, 1925), vol. 2, p. 708.

> the form of books, pamphlets, periodicals and communiqués. Such material is extensively supplied to public libraries, societies, educational institutions, church organizations, and so forth, provided they are frequented by, or connected in some way with Germans, or persons of German extraction. The Institute can furthermore be relied upon to assist in the preparation and documentation of Congresses held by Germans abroad.
>
> "The Institute also has a hand in organizing the frequent and periodical broadcasts transmitted to foreign Germans by the powerful short-wave stations of the Reich radio system. The Stuttgart broadcasting station is housed in the building of the Institute which furnishes with appropriate material this station as well as others belonging to the German chain. The main object of the programs thus supplied is to keep Germans living in other countries in constant touch with developments in the Reich, to stimulate their interest in the Reich, to develop social, political and economic relationships favorable to Germany, and to convince them of the success of National Socialism. Certain of these broadcasts are also of a cultural nature and include music, theatrical programs, lectures on artistic and historical subjects, as well as also religious discourses.
>
> "*Activity in Emigration Matters*
>
> "The Institute would appear to exercise a certain function in controlling and directing the source of the small amount of emigration (excepting Jews) that is taking place from the Reich. It is understood to possess a department which acts as a sort of labor exchange able to furnish German workmen for firms doing business abroad. This section also apparently advises persons wishing to proceed to foreign countries as settlers, handling their applications and passing upon their requests for foreign exchange. The Institute's activity in this field is apparently based on the theory that while a large wave of emigration is neither possible nor desirable, nevertheless the establishment of the right kind of German settler is advantageous in certain localities, particularly if they can be encouraged to maintain their ties with the Reich and be bound to National Socialism."

2. TIE-UP WITH NAZIS

Evidence demonstrating the close tie-up between the DAI and the Nazi Party is as conclusive as in the case of the VDA. Here, likewise, immediately after the Nazis came into power, an established institution whose general ideals and aims were in conformity with those of the Nazis was promptly *gleichgeschaltet*, i.e. put under direct Nazi control through reorganization. An account of the procedure appeared in the official National Socialist newspaper organ of Württemberg, the Stuttgart *N. S. Kurier* of September 21, 1933:

> "In the course of the revolutionary turn of events, an emergency has ensued, which required the chief supervisory authorities of the Württemberg government to install for the

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maintenance of the work a Committee of Reorganization, to which were transferred all powers. This condition was subsequently recognized as proper by the Assembly. The committee had the task of appointing the new chairman of the Institute, who then himself was to appoint the new Board of Directors, and in agreement with the Government offices work out the new statutes.

"The head of the Committee of Three, Dr. Steinacher, Reich's Führer of the VDA, declared that they have found the right man in Chief Mayor Dr. Strölin, who in view of the situation and his personality appeared most suited to assume this responsible post. The task of the committee had concluded with this."

(Document 39–A, *post* p. 463.)

Dr. Strölin was the Nazi Chief Mayor of Stuttgart, installed by fiat after the advent of the Nazis, although he had been badly beaten in the previous election.

It will be noted in the above citation that after his appointment Dr. Strölin, acting in accordance with the Führer principle, then proceeded to appoint the new Board of Directors. Dr. Eisenmann, director of the provincial parliament, was appointed vice chairman. Also appointed to the Board of Directors were: Senior Government Councilor Dr. Drück from the Ministry of the Interior; Dr. Robert Ernst, leader of the Schutzbund; University Professor Dr. Göring; Senior Director of Education Dr. Krehl; and Dr. Hans Steinacher, Reich's leader of the VDA, among others. The direction of the Institute was entrusted to Professor Csaki,[79] a Transylvanian Saxon who had experience in Germanism activities beyond the borders of Germany.

The first paragraph of a report on the 1933 annual meeting of the DAI, appearing in the authoritative Stuttgart newspaper, *Stuttgarter Neues Tagblatt*, of September 21, 1933, shows the status of the DAI in the new Nazi state:

"This year's annual meeting of the Deutsches Ausland-Institut stood entirely under the sign of the new National Socialist Germany. Only the National Socialist world-view is able to give to the idea of the work for Germandom abroad the great significance which is due it. The racial-German idea has today finally won through. Hence it was to be taken for granted that this year's annual meeting of the Deutsches Ausland-Institut would be participated in by the authoritative Government offices.

[79] Dr. Csaki is still mentioned as the Manager of the Institute in a report dated Nov. 30, 1940. However, the March–April 1942 issue of the DAI periodical *Deutschtum im Ausland* names Dr. Hermann Rüdiger as the Institute's Manager, Dr. Csaki having become in the meantime a member of the Board of Directors. The same issue discloses that the notorious Walter Kappe, well known in the United States, is managing editor of the periodical but on leave for military duty.

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inseparable unity of Germandom abroad with the mother-country and for the expansion of all racial-German work." [82] (Document 39–A, *post* p. 461.)

Subsequently, Dr. Strölin read the following telegram from Hitler in reply:

"I sincerely thank the assembled participants of the DAI's annual meeting for the pledge of allegiance transmitted to me, and send my most cordial greeting. Signed, Adolf Hitler." [83] (Document 39–A, *post* p. 461.)

The public addresses delivered at that meeting illustrate the complete correspondence between the aims of the DAI and those of the Nazi Party, and contain further the explicit dedication of the DAI to the service of National Socialism. Minister-President Mergenthaler in an address, recorded by the *Stuttgarter Neues Tagblatt*, September 21, 1933, stated:

"The National Socialist movement has had a fructifying effect in all spheres of life. It has also given an entirely new impulse to the work for Germandom. The work for Germandom in foreign countries has thereby received the proper consecration and depth. In the past years of struggle it has often filled us with concern that the work for Germandom in foreign countries could not be carried on in close connection with the Brown fighters of National Socialism. The liberalistic ideology which has been overcome dealt with the formal concept of the citizen. We have gotten rid of that. Today the blood-united German racial-comrade stands in the center. That is the new foundation upon which we must build.

"The work for foreign Germandom must in the future proceed on a racial basis; otherwise it has lost the ground under its feet . . . New paths will be opened up for the work of Germandom by the new conception. The new conception will be a protective wall against the cultural and racial absorption of our comrades in other peoples. National Socialism will give energy to the German racial comrades. We are giving the Germans abroad therewith something enormously great. We also ought not to forget that the Germans abroad in a certain sense stand as guardians around us. Hence I want to impress on the Deutsches Ausland-Institut: Join us therefore in taking care that the spirit of National Socialism also become alive among the German racial-comrades in foreign countries, so that streams of energy may emanate from it!"

(Document 39–A, *post* pp. 462–463.)

The end of Dr. Csaki's annual report, as given in the *N. S. Kurier* of September 21, 1933, included the following:

"After sixteen years of its existence the DAI is concluding the first great span of its development. *The second stage*, upon

[82] *N. S. Kurier*, Sept. 21, 1933.
[83] *Stuttgarter Neues Tagblatt*, Sept. 21, 1933.

back to Germany to be lodged in one of these *Schulungslager*, or houses or camps, where they are given the necessary intensive grounding in the principles of National Socialism. It appears, moreover, that the younger men most recently admitted to the official foreign services, as well as those below a certain grade who are called back to serve in the Foreign Office, must also attend one of these camps in summer. (Their wives are schooled in special courses given locally in Berlin.) Not only are Party and Government officials serving abroad forced to submit to this training, but it appears that persons capable of exercising a cultural and professional influence abroad, such as ministers, doctors, lawyers, business leaders, and so forth, are encouraged and sometimes required to attend one of these camps, where Nazi doctrine is mixed with rigid military discipline.

"The Ausland-Institut plays a part in determining the curriculum of the *Schulungslager* as well as serving as an intermediary between the Party authorities who run these camps and Germans from abroad who are to attend them. Its facilities of various kinds are also put at the free disposal of persons of German extraction who visit the Reich and who may be counted upon to promote the National Socialist cause in foreign countries."

Most striking evidence of the relation between the DAI and the Nazi Party is furnished by the following passages from the previously mentioned January 1941 circular letter of the Kameradschaft U.S.A.:

"*Collection of Documents Concerning the Movement:*

"The collection of pictures, photos, handbills, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and posters of the German national movement in the United States, which was begun by me in the spring of 1939, will be *continued*.

"The material already at hand is to be built up to a complete collection, which later is to be incorporated into the German Foreign Institute, as well as the Central Archives of the NSDAP in Munich, as an eternal record of our struggle in the United States." (Document 22–A, *post* p. 278.)

3. VIEWS ON ASSIMILATION EXPRESSED AT DAI MEETING 1937

In accordance with its general nature, the DAI represented one of the foremost German agencies aiming to prevent the assimilation of Germans abroad into the populations of the foreign countries. At the twentieth annual meeting of the DAI held at Stuttgart on August 12–15, 1937, the subject of assimilation was one of the main topics discussed. This meeting was likewise attended by very prominent officials of the German Government, including Foreign Minister Baron von Neurath, Minister of the Interior Frick, and the Governor of Württemberg and his entire Cabinet; officials of the German Party; representatives of Alfred Rosenberg's Party Office; and many other prominent persons. Hence the views expressed represented both [illegible] Party-state officialdom and the DAI.

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According to an entirely reliable confidential report, dated August 21, 1937, the German Minister of the Interior, Frick, in his address at the culminating reception of the meeting—

> "declared that the new Germany has recognized that its attention and devotion to the welfare of the millions of Germans, who have not the fortune to owe political allegiance to Germany, but who are condemned to live abroad, are not merely a matter of natural sympathy and solidarity, but are in a higher degree dictated by the strong political and economic interests of the Reich. He protested strongly against attempts of foreign nations to assimilate German blood and argued that those nations, which realize that they will gain nothing by such endeavors, but which will recognize the aspirations of Germans living in their midst, will gain the friendship of the mighty German Reich, which will then be prepared to make economic concessions to them . . . Herr Frick also said that the principles of National Socialism, which are directing the cultural and political life of the German nation, will constitute in the future a source of strength and of confidence for millions of *Volksdeutsche* (persons of German blood) living in foreign countries."

Konrad Henlein, at that time leader of the German minority element in Czechoslovakia, was a prominent visitor at the assembly, speaking twice, once in public and once in private. Among his principal statements reported at that time were the following:

> "Every person of German extraction regards the Third Reich as a source of strength in his struggle to retain his *Volkstum* [meaning in this sense: the community of all persons of German extraction throughout the world]; . . . the happiness and future of the Sudeten Germans, as well as all Germans in the world, are closely linked with those of the Third Reich; . . . solidarity with and loyalty towards Germany is not incompatible with citizenship in another country; . . . and we have the inalienable right to unite ourselves on the basis of blood with our German brethren and to form one great national family . . ."

In view of the later events in Czechoslovakia, and Henlein's activities in particular, one should note especially his bland assurance of the compatibility between loyalty toward Germany and citizenship in another country.

At an earlier gathering of this DAI meeting, the problem of the German element in the United States was the subject of a special discussion, led by Dr. Kroh, a professor at Tübingen University. According to the same report:

> "His entreaty that every possible effort should be made by Germans living in the United States, regardless of allegiance, to preserve their mother tongue met with hearty approval by the whole assembly. He even argued that these efforts should be extended to the reestablishment of the German character which had been submerged in the great melting pot and that every

During the German campaign in Poland, according to all reports, the organized German minority functioned as a "fifth column" with great effectiveness, gathering military information, planting signals for the German air force, and undermining the morale of the Polish Army by diversionist activities.

An account published in July 1941 in *Deutsches Wollen*,[3] the magazine of the party's Foreign Organization, relates the activities of the Nazi Party group in Greece before and after the German Army entered Athens. After the entrance of the Germans, in the words of this group's leader, all the party members performed "auxiliary service with the Army". (Document 41, *post* p. 467.)

The following excerpts are taken from a confidential, reliable account, verified by other sources, of the many-sided German fifth-column activity in the Netherlands before the German invasion. Since these excerpts give a sketch of a whole situation, they are set down in proper sequence without interruption. Valuable details concerning the activities of Bohle's Foreign Organization are given, as well as illuminating remarks on Nazi propaganda and tactics. Of special interest, too, is the exposé of the Nazi Party's methods for maintaining its powerful hold on all Germans, in which are mentioned both the threats and inducements given by the Nazis to Germans living abroad in order to secure their loyalty and service. The tie-up with Netherlands Nazis and the clever use of disaffected Netherlanders, especially from among the unemployed, is also worthy of note.

"Few countries were more important in the pre-war Nazi strategy than Holland—and for very good reasons . . . For all these reasons it was imperative that the Nazi party members in the Netherlands be rigorously organized, and their knowledge and influence employed for the destruction of the Dutch morale. This was Dr. Butting's job.

"It was not a job at which any man could work openly. The Dutch government was democratic, wherefore it permitted the existence of a Dutch National-Socialist Party, and that party even had a handful of representatives in the Dutch Parliament. But Germans resident in Holland were forbidden by Dutch law to organize politically. This being so, both their organization and their leader had to work under cover. The cover for the Nazi party organization was an outwardly social and cultural body that went by the innocent name of *Reichsdeutsche Gemeinschaft*, the German Citizens' Association. Every member of this association was a member of the Nazi Party of Germany. The president of the association was Dr. Butting,—and the cover furnished Dr. Butting was an appointment as attaché of the German legation at The Hague.

. . . . . .

[3] *Deutsches Wollen* (magazine of the Foreign Organization of the NSDAP: Berlin, July 1941), pp. 1ff.

". . . He [Butting] had first become a Nazi, then an ardent Nazi, and in the course of time an agitator in Austria. Among the unfortunate Austrians he had acquired such skill in the art of national disintegration (which is to say, fifth columnism), that, rising in the Party ranks, he was eventually rewarded with the high and lucrative post of *Landesgruppenleiter*, or National Group Leader, for Holland. . . . As Party leader for Holland he was in absolute fact the uncrowned king of every German national resident in that country. He reported solely and directly to Bohle, who was at one and the same time head of the Party's foreign organization and Assistant Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

. . . . . .

"In 1938 the German legation owned two houses in The Hague. Both were of course the subject of diplomatic immunity and therefore inviolable as concerned search and seizure by the Dutch police. I shall call the house in which Dr. Butting had his office House No. 2.

"What went on in House No. 2? It had been remodelled and was divided like a two-family house—vertically, not horizontally; but between the two halves there was a communicating door. One side of the house was Dr. Butting's. The other half housed the Nazi military intelligence agent for Holland . . .

"S.B. [the military intelligence agent] may have had as many as a dozen subordinates working in Holland, all sub-agents of the Canaris bureau. These were professional spies who knew their trade. But they could not possibly know Holland as intimately as was required by the strategy of the German High Command, as it was revealed following the invasion of May 1940. For this, not a dozen but perhaps several hundred sources of information were necessary. And it is at this point that Butting and the military intelligence agent come together. Through his German Citizens' Association, Butting had a pair of Nazi eyes, a pair of Nazi ears, in every town and hamlet of the Netherlands. They were the eyes and ears of his minor party officials. Whenever the military intelligence agent needed information concerning a corner of Holland which his people had not yet explored, or was anxious to check information relayed to him by one of his own people, he would go to Butting.

"'Have you anybody along such-and-such a canal?' he would ask, 'or in such-and-such a town.'

"Butting always had.

"'Let me see the fellow's card,' S.B. would say. And having driven out to scrutinize the fellow (most often a party member, but sometimes a Hollander), having interviewed him and been satisfied with him, S.B. would mark him down as a *Vertrauensmann*, a man to be trusted. Through such a man he would learn, among other things, which of the Hollanders in the locality might be considered 'reliable.' The *Vertrauensmann* would not, however, become a Canaris sub-agent. If he were a Hollander, he would continue his work for the Dutch National-Socialist Party run by Mussert and Rost van Tonningen. If, as was more likely, he were a German, he would go on working

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intermittently for S.B. but would continue his direct and normal Party service as fifth columnist, that is, as a man who, standing well in the Dutch community in which he lived, was able to spread Nazi doctrine and win sympathy for the Nazis of Germany and their way of life.

What S.B. learnt from one of his own people he checked with a Butting man; and what the Butting men reported was unfailingly checked with a military intelligence man, or by S.B. himself. "'I know every stone in Holland,' S.B. once boasted. By 'stone' he meant canal, lock, bridge, viaduct, culvert, highway, by-road, airport, emergency landing field, and the name and location of Dutch Nazi sympathizers who would help the invading army when the time came. Had Dr. Butting's Party organization not existed under the innocent cover of his Citizens' Association, S.B.'s knowledge of Holland would have been as nothing compared with what it was. Thus the Citizens' Association served a double purpose: it was invaluable for espionage at the same time as it fulfilled its primary function as a fifth column agency. Or, to put it more truly, there is no such thing as fifth columnism divorced from espionage. Fused and intertwined, they come to the same thing; and when you permit fifth columnism, 'mere propaganda', you are at the same time intensifying the espionage carried out against your country.

. . . . . .

"There are a scattering of German schools in Holland—a high school in The Hague and primary schools in other cities. German children, but also the children of Hollanders and of some members of the diplomatic corps, attended these schools. The schools were subsidized by the Nazi Government. Their teachers were sent out from Germany and were all Party members. The curriculum was prescribed by Berlin and was exactly that taught in Nazi Germany.

"Now the great danger of these schools—apart from the poisoning of young minds with ludicrous notions of race and history, and Nazi doctrine generally—comes from the fact that, more than any other category of German living abroad, these school teachers are completely under the thumb of the Buttings. They are not merely Germans and Nazis, they are civil servants participating in a hierarchy and a pension system in which they cannot afford to lose their rank and all the benefits accruing from their past service . . .

"In Holland these teachers had still another function. Dr. Butting maintained at House No. 2 an enormous *Kartothek*, a card file, in which he registered everything that his agents knew about the German population of Holland, as well as about non-Germans. Having no wish to draw attention upon himself by the presence of a large clerical staff in House No. 2, he obliged the teachers to do his clerical work for him after hours . . .

"One of the most pitiful and skilful aspects of Dr. Butting's domination in Holland was the control he possessed over the German working population, even those who were indifferent to politics or secretly anti-Nazi.

"We had in Holland, you will recall, at least 100,000 Germans who had not surrendered, and by and large did not intend to surrender, their German nationality. As workers, whether clerks, craftsmen, common laborers, or even housemaids, they were all required by Nazi law to be members of the Labor Front. The Labor Front, you may have forgotten, is that Nazi government department which has replaced the outlawed labor unions of Germany, and administers the workers' insurance, benefit, and pension system first instituted . . . by Bismarck in the 1880's. In and out of Germany, every German worker must carry a Labor Front card and must have entered on that card the monthly contributions he makes to the Fund out of which the benefit payments are disbursed.

"Consider what a boon this represented to Dr. Butting. Who in Holland shall collect these social contributions? Who but the Party members? From whom collect? From every single German in Holland below the status of an executive or proprietor of his own business. Thus, leaving aside the refugees, who had lost their nationality, every German man and woman in Holland was known to Butting's Party men; every one was identified and his personal history summarized in that vast card file upon which the teachers spent their evenings.

"Now to be a German citizen and to be known to the Nazis is to be in the power of the Nazis. So long as you do not surrender your nationality, the Buttings are able to coerce or blackmail or bribe you into doing their bidding. They can break you, or they can induct you into the Party—exactly as these vest-pocket Robespierres choose. That you happen to reside outside instead of inside Germany makes no difference. You are their man; and this is of course especially true of the poor, for the poor by definition live in uncertainty, have no influential friends, and stand in constant dread of authority—whether it be the rent collector or the police.

"In the winter of 1938–39 Butting had received orders to repatriate to Germany, because of the war-economy labor shortage, literally thousands of German housemaids who had been working in Holland. The great card file was consulted, and Butting himself decided which women were to go and which were to be allowed to remain. Those who were most 'useful' to the Party stayed.

. . . . . .

"It was not far different with the men of German nationality. Somehow, if you didn't toe the line you lost your job. And what then? Holland, like all countries without a war economy, had her share of unemployed. Jobs were scarce, and the foreign unemployed were instantly deported by the Dutch, who had no wish to extend the dole to them. So you found yourself back in Germany. What sort of work could you get in Germany if you were in Butting's black books? Labor camp work and no other.

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"But there were other reasons than terrorism why you should submit to Dr. Butting. There were those little everyday reasons which play so large a part in our lives that we never think of them as decisive, never accord them the importance they possess. For example, you—and the women too—enjoy certain advantages by being a 'good' German, that is, at least outwardly a Nazi sympathizer. The 'Social Department' of the Citizens' Association through which your Labor Front dues were collected, also furnished you sports, recreation, and entertainment through its local branches. If you had to send money home to your family in Germany, 'the boys' knew where you could get a favorable exchange rate for your guilders. Suppose you were in funds, and went home to Germany for Christmas. You could get out of Holland all right; but the only way to be reasonably sure that you would be allowed back was to impress 'the boys' with the idea that you could make yourself useful to them. So you spied on your employer; you answered questions about what went on in your shop; you told 'the boys' that the regiment of the Dutch colonel in whose house you worked was being transferred to such-and-such a place next month; you let them know what Mynheer A., the shipping agent, had said about Hitler to Mynheer B., the oil man, at the club where you were a waiter. It didn't occur to you that by this system German morality as a whole was being sapped, that the German people were being turned into stool-pigeons and boot-lickers—merely that you stood in a little better with 'the boys' and had made a friendly gleam come for a moment into a Party official's eye that ordinarily was cold and suspicious. If, two months later at the club, you chanced to overhear that the shipping man was no longer agent for the German line his family had long represented, it meant nothing to you,—unless you were a very clever lad, in which case you were on the way to being one of 'the boys' yourself.

. . . . . .

". . . It was with the aid of this van Hoeven, and with the advice of certain members of the Dutch national-socialist party, that the Dutch unemployment records were carefully combed for men to be put to work in Germany. A selection was made of those young men who were at once the best workers and most disaffected spirits among the Dutch unemployed.

"The young men were shipped off to Germany and given work at fair wages. The foreign exchange regulations were relaxed in their favor, and they were permitted to send home to their families, in Dutch guilders, up to two-thirds of their pay. They were decently housed, quite well fed, and generously entertained with free beer, movies, and dances, sometimes three evenings a week, by the officials of the 'Strength Through Joy' movement or one of the other Nazi agencies for keeping up the spirits of the Nazi slaves at home. With their habitual cunning, the Nazis rotated these Dutch unemployed. They would keep a man in Germany, in these favorable conditions, not above six months, send him back, and replace him by another. The total turnover was about 80,000 men.

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3.

Rundbrief an alle Kameraden

Liebe Kameraden!

Als wir im Jahre 1938 daran gingen, die Idee Sepp Schusters, der schon früher in München einen stattlichen Kreis einstiger Mitkämpfer aus dem Bund "Freunde des Neuen Deutschlands" um sich geschart hatte, auf das Reichsgebiet zu erweitern und die "Kameradschaft USA." zu gründen, bewogen uns dazu drei Gesichtspunkte :

einmal wollten wir die Kameradschaft, die uns drüben alle Hindernisse und Schwierigkeiten bewältigen liess und in der wir unser höchstes Erlebnis fanden, hier im Vaterlande fortsetzen, uns gegenseitig helfen, im Austausch unserer Erinnerungen an die Kampfzeit in USA. uns Kraft und Mut für den Alltag holen,

zum anderen aber wollten wir durch Bildung dieser Kameradschaft uns selbst und unsere drüben gesammelten Erfahrungen unserem Vaterland zur Verfügung stellen

und schliesslich erhofften wir, irgendwie unseren kämpfenden Brüdern drüben einen moralischen Rückhalt zu geben und sei es nur durch die Tatsache, dass wir, die Rückgewanderten, in Treue jener tapferen Kämpfer gedachten, mit denen wir Jahre hindurch in einer Front gestanden hatten.

So wurden in Stuttgart, Berlin, Hamburg, Hannover Kameradschaften gegründet und kurz vor Kriegsbeginn konnte durch Entgegenkommen des Deutschen Ausland-Instituts und der Stadt Stuttgart das erste Reichstreffen der Kameradschaft USA. verbunden mit der Eröffnung der Ausstellung "Amerikadeutschtum im Kampf" abgehalten werden, ein unvergessliches Erlebnis für alle Teilnehmer!

Der Krieg machte durch unsere weiteren Zukunftspläne einen dicken Strich, auch hörte die weitere Rückwanderung so gut wie auf. Ein grosser Teil unserer Kameraden eilte zu den Fahnen, einzelne Kameradschaftsgruppen verwaisten völlig. Dazu kam, dass Fritz Gissibl im Osten, in Litzmannstadt, eingesetzt wurde, Sepp Schuster nach Berlin ging, Ernst Vennekohl und ich schon vom ersten Kriegstage an den Schreibtisch mit der Waffe vertauschten.

4.

So ist denn heute unsere Anschriftenliste zum Teil veraltet, viele Kameraden sind verzogen, ohne uns ihre neue Anschrift hinterlassen zu haben. Eine Reihe von Briefen, die ich in letzter Zeit in dem Bemühen schrieb, unsere Kameradschaft neu zu beleben, blieb ohne Antwort.

Trotzdem aber lebt die Kameradschaft USA., das spürt man aus der Arbeit unserer Berliner Gruppe, die inzwischen die weitaus grösste geworden ist, das wissen auch die im Felde stehenden Kameraden, die auch zum letzten Weihnachtsfest mit einem Päckchen bedacht wurden, das klingt auch aus allen Feldpostbriefen und das hört man aus den oft ungeduldigen Anfragen, was denn eigentlich die Kameradschaft mache.

Es kommt also nur darauf an, den ersten Anstoss zur Wiederaufnahme unserer Tätigkeit zu geben.

Das soll dieser erste Rundbrief besorgen.

Walter Kappe

(Walter Kappe)

- -

Diesem Rundbrief beigefügt ist ein als streng vertraulich zu betrachtender Bericht über die Lage des Deutschtums in USA., der die Kameraden auf dem Laufenden halten soll.

D.O.

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5.

Eberhard von N a s s e gefallen

Wenige Tage vor Abschluss des Waffenstillstands mit Frankreich fiel bei einem Sturmangriff auf die Maginotlinie

der Gefreite Eberhard von Nasse,

der erste Landesjugendführer des Bundes "Freunde des Neuen Deutschland" und langjährige Ortsgruppenleiter von Buffalo.

Eberhard von Nasse gehörte zu den ältesten Vorkämpfern der völkischen Bewegung in den Vereinigten Staaten und war der Gründer der amerikadeutschen Jugendbewegung in den zwanziger Jahren.

Dem Amerikadeutschtum war er nicht nur das Vorbild eines nationalsozialistischen Führers, sondern auch des stets einsatzbereiten Kameraden. Seinen Einsatz für Führer und Volk hat er an der Front mit dem Tode besiegelt.

Eberhard von N a s s e wird in unseren Reihen weiterleben !

6.

Anordnungen der Kameradschaftsleitung:

Sitz der Kameradschaftsleitung ist Stuttgart,

Anschrift: Kameradschaft USA.
Stuttgart-S,
Danziger Freiheit 17.

Mitgliedsbeitrag:

Von jedem Mitglied der Kameradschaft USA. wird ein Jahresbeitrag in Höhe von RM 1.-- erhoben. Die Beiträge sind unter Verwendung der beliegenden Zahlkarte auf das Postscheckkonto 142 64 Stuttgart einzuzahlen.

Diese Beitragserhebung erfolgt ausschliesslich aus dem Grunde, um festzustellen, wer Interesse an der Kameradschaft hat und wer nicht. Wem die Zahlung von RM 1.-- zuviel ist, der möge ruhig fernbleiben.

Das Geld wird für besondere Fälle und Deckung besonderer Ausgeben (z.B. Vorbereitung einer Tagung usw.) zur Verfügung gehalten.

Es wird verwaltet vom Sekretär der Kameradschaft USA., Kamerad J.K.Leibl (Chikago).

Sammlung von Dokumenten aus der Bewegung:

Die von mir im Frühjahr 1939 eingeleitete Sammlung von Bildern, Fotos, Flugblättern, Broschüren, Zeitungsberichten und Plakaten aus der völkischen Bewegung in USA. wird fortgesetzt.

Mit dem bereits vorhandenen Material soll es zu einer lückenlosen Sammlung ausgestaltet werden, die später einmal dem Deutschen Ausland-Institut sowie dem Zentralarchiv der NSDAP. in München als ewiges Dokument unseres Kampfes in USA. einverleibt werden soll.

Die Originalstücke werden nach Bearbeitung an jeden Kameraden zurückgegeben werden, sodass eine Einbusse an persönlichen Andenken nicht erfolgt. Nur bitte ich, Geduld zu haben.

Sammlung von Filmen der Bewegung:

Aus dem gleichen Grunde wollen sich bitte alle Kameraden melden, die im Besitz von Filmen aus der Bewegung sind. Ich bin in der Lage, aus solchen Filmen einen guten Gesamtfilm in mehreren Kopien kostenlos herstellen zu lassen.

Die Filme brauchen vorläufig noch nicht eingesandt zu werden, es genügt mir vorerst Meldung und Beschreibung sowie ungefähre Länge der Filme.

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[p. 2] TO THE
COMRADESHIP USA.

The year 1939 with its great political and military events has partially dissolved the close bands which bound the Comradeship together. Many left their former circles of activity to become soldiers or have been transferred in the meantime to one of the new territories. A meeting in Stuttgart provided the incentive to resume contact by the Central Office with all comrades. To this end Party Member *Walter Kappe*, who meanwhile has returned from the Army, will take over the *leadership of the Comradeship* and will renew the bonds through this circular letter. I beg each individual to resume active participation in the work of his respective group for I am convinced that our work in the future will be of significance.

In old loyalty

Heil Hitler!
(Signed) FRITZ GISSIBL

I have accepted the leadership of the Comradeship USA after a discussion with Fritz Gissibl and Sepp Schuster, who meanwhile has been called up for military service, on the ground that a Central Office of the Comradeship USA must also exist in time of war. This circular letter from Stuttgart is to assist in renewing contact with all comrades, men and women. I depend upon the cooperation of everyone.

Heil Hitler!
(Signed) WALTER KAPPE

[p. 3] CIRCULAR LETTER TO ALL COMRADES

Dear Comrades!

When in 1938 we undertook the task of extending throughout the Reich the idea of Sepp Schuster, who earlier had gathered about him in Munich a numerous circle of former fighters from the Bund "Friends of the New Germany", and of establishing the "Comradeship USA", we were moved by three reasons:

first, we wished to continue here in the fatherland the comradeship which enabled us to overcome all obstacles and difficulties over there [in the United States], to help each other and, by the exchange of our experiences during the period of struggle in the United States, to gather strength and courage for our daily work,

second, we wished also through the establishment of this Comradeship to place at the disposal of our fatherland ourselves and the experience which we gained over there,

and, finally, we hoped in some manner to give our fighting brothers over there moral support, even if only through the fact that we, who had returned, loyally remembered the brave fighters at whose side we stood through the years at the front.

Accordingly, Comradeship groups were established in Stuttgart, Berlin, Hamburg, and Hanover; and shortly before the beginning of the war it was possible, through the cooperation of the German Foreign Institute and the city of Stuttgart, to hold the first national meeting of the Comradeship USA in conjunction with the opening of the exposition "American Germanism in Combat", an unforgettable experience for all who participated!

The war drew a heavy line through our extensive plans for the future, and further repatriation practically stopped. The greater part of our comrades hastened to the flag, some Comradeship groups were completely orphaned. Furthermore, Fritz Gissibl was transferred to the east to Litzmannstadt [Lodz, Poland], Sepp Schuster went to Berlin, and, in the first days of the war, Ernst Vennekohl and I exchanged the desk for weapons.

[p. 4] Consequently, at present our list of addresses is partly out of date. Many comrades have moved without furnishing us with their new addresses. A number of letters which I have written recently in an effort to revive our Comradeship remain unanswered.

Nevertheless, the Comradeship USA still lives. That is evident from the work of our Berlin group, which, in the meantime, has become by far the largest. That is also known to the comrades in the field who were remembered last Christmas with a package. That is apparent in all letters from the front and is also heard in the often impatient inquiries as to what the Comradeship is actually doing.

It is, therefore, only necessary to give the first stimulus to the resumption of our activity. That is to be provided by this first circular letter.

WALTER KAPPE

Attached to this letter is a report concerning the position of Germandom in the United States, which is to be considered as strictly confidential and which is to keep the comrades *au courant*.

W. K.

[p. 5] EBERHARD VON NASSE HAS FALLEN

A few days before the signature of the Armistice with France, there fell, during an attack on the Maginot Line,

Corporal Eberhard von Nasse,

the first National Youth Leader of the Bund "Friends of the New Germany" and for many years local group leader in Buffalo.

Eberhard von Nasse was one of the oldest front fighters in the German racial movement in the United States and was the founder of the American "German Youth Movement" in the twenties.

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For American Germandom he was not only the model of a National Socialist Führer but also a comrade who was always ready for service. His service for Führer and people was sealed by death at the front.

Eberhard von Nasse will live on in our ranks!

[p. 6] INSTRUCTIONS OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THE COMRADESHIP:

The headquarters of the Comradeship leadership is at Stuttgart,

Address: Kameradschaft USA.
Stuttgart–S,
Danziger Freiheit 17.

Membership Fees:

An annual contribution in the amount of one mark is collected from every member of the Comradeship USA. The fees should be sent to Postal Account 142 64 at Stuttgart by using the attached payment card.

This collection of fees is being made exclusively for the purpose of determining who has interest in the Comradeship and who does not. Anyone for whom the payment of one mark is too much may quietly remain outside.

The funds will be used for special cases and to cover special expenditures (for example, the preparation of a conference, etc.)

They will be administered by the secretary of the Comradeship USA., Comrade *J. K. Leibl* (Chicago).

Collection of Documents Concerning the Movement:

The collection of pictures, photos, handbills, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and posters of the German national movement in the United States, which was begun by me in the spring of 1939, will be *continued.*

The material already at hand is to be built up to a complete collection, which later is to be incorporated into the German Foreign Institute, as well as the Central Archives of the NSDAP in Munich, as an eternal record of our struggle in the United States.

The original documents will be returned to each comrade after recording, so that no sacrifice of personal souvenirs will occur. I only ask you to have patience.

Collection of Films of the Movement:

For the same reasons we wish to hear from all comrades who are in possession of films concerning the movement. I am in a position to have a *good complete film in several copies* prepared from such films.

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we feel ourselves the appointed *protectors of these values in foreign Germanism.* A state which is built on the iron laws of blood and race, like the National Socialist Reich, cannot do other than accept its own blood always and everywhere even in the remotest corner of the earth. The Foreign Organization is, therefore, the gathering place for every single racial comrade of the Reich, who—otherwise dependent on himself alone—would be lost to the Reich. The Foreign Organization wishes to preserve for the Reich every German wherever he may be in the world, be he rich or poor, young or old, in the knowledge that no sin is greater than that of *voluntarily* abandoning German blood.

Gauleiter Bohle referred to the situation of Germanism abroad before the Nazi seizure of power, which manifested the same disunity as had the Germans in the Reich itself and which, because of the collapse of the old fatherland, was little respected abroad; and he emphasized that, only a few years before the seizure of power, an immense change began through the formation of local groups of the NSDAP, which at that time was still unknown or unmentioned abroad. Everywhere abroad there were a few enthusiastic men and women who believed in Adolf Hitler regardless of all slander and who began the struggle to win their German compatriots for the ideology of the new movement.

Today, barely four years after the seizure of power, we can proudly and joyfully declare that our party comrades abroad have conquered foreign Germanism—conquered it for the National Socialist idea—conquered it without any external pressure—conquered it *through the strength of persuasion—conquered it through the deeds of the Führer in the Reich!* The Führer had to come in order to hammer into all of us the fact that the German cannot choose and may not choose whether or not he will be German but that he was sent into this world by God as a German and that God thereby had laid upon him as a German duties of which he cannot divest himself without committing treason to Providence. *Therefore, we believe and we know that the German everywhere is a German*—whether he lives in the Reich or in Japan, in France or in China, or anywhere else in the world. *Not countries or continents, not climate or environment but blood and race determine the world of ideas of the German.*

The wonderful thing about our new Reich is that this Reich will not voluntarily release a single one of its citizens from his holy duties to his people.

Therefore, it depends on each German citizen to think German, to act German, and to remain German; wherever he may be, he will know that Germany stands beside him and that his new Germany is determined to protect every single one of its citizens outside of its boundaries. When the Bolshevik terror broke out in Spain and threatened

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Seid Vermittler der Wahrheit!

Vorwürfe und Kritik, mögen sie noch so ernsthaft sein, lassen uns völlig kalt. Wir tun, was wir für richtig halten. Wir tun, was unserem Volke nützt, gleichgültig, was man draußen darüber denkt oder sagt.

Wir wissen aus Erfahrung, daß solche Kritik meist gar nicht einer besseren Ueberzeugung oder gar dem Wunsche entspricht, uns helfend zu beraten, sondern es ist lediglich die Absicht, uns in der Weltmeinung Schaden zuzufügen, sofern es uns möglich ist. Es ist die Absicht, kein Verständnis für das Tun und Lassen der sogenannten autoritären Staaten aufkommen zu lassen und dadurch die Verständigung zwischen den Völkern zu erschweren. Weil wir dies wissen, weil wir den Hintergrund der Kritik an uns durchschauen, deshalb zeigen wir auf die Beweise der Unwahrhaftigkeit der Kritiker.

Erfreulicherweise kommen alljährlich in immer wachsender Zahl Angehörige fremder Staaten in unser Land, Fremde, die mit eigenen Augen sehen wollen, wie es bei uns in Wirklichkeit aussieht und welches nun tatsächlich die Ergebnisse der nationalsozialistischen Herrschaft sind. Ueber diese Besucher freuen wir uns ehrlich. Wir freuen uns, weil wir wissen, daß, gleich welcher politischen Anschauung sie angehören und gleich welchem Stand und welcher Klasse sie sich zurechnen, sie bald anerkennen müssen, welche Leistungen im Reich Adolf Hitlers vollbracht wurden und vollbracht werden. Wir wissen, daß alle, die guten Willens sind, Deutschland einst wieder verlassen als Träger des Verstehens und als Träger der Verständigung zwischen uns und dem Lande, dem sie angehören.

Auch ihr, meine auslandsdeutschen Volksgenossen", so fuhr der Stellvertreter des Führers mit besonderer Betonung fort, „geht wieder zurück in eure Gastländer als Vermittler der Wahrheit über eure große Heimat, über das neue Deutschland. Wir wissen, daß ihr draußen an eurem Teil der Wahrheit zum Siege verhelfen werdet.

Weihe neuer Fahnen

Als Hinnzeichen des Nationalsozialismus und als Symbole der Verpflichtung auf den Mann, der ihn schuf, werden auch in diesem Jahre wieder 24 Hakenkreuzfahnen hier von Stuttgart aus mit euch hinausgehen in alle Welt: Ihr tragt diese Fahnen der nationalsozialistischen Gemeinschaft mit euch hinaus, nicht zum Sturmangriff auf fremde Ueberzeugungen und Weltanschauungen! Ihr nehmt sie mit euch als eure eigensten, nur für euch allein bestimmten friedlichen Symbole eurer Heimat.

Es sollen die Fahnen, die wir jetzt weihen, euch ein Stück Heimat in der Fremde sein. Sie sollen wehen als Mittelpunkt des Deutschtums, und sie sollen euch mahnen und euch die Kraft geben, euer Leben dem Gedanken unterzuordnen: Alles für Deutschland!"

Es beginnt nun die feierliche Weihe der neuer Fahnen. Das Kommando: „Stillgestanden! Fahnen hoch!" schallt über die Arena. Rudolf Heß nimmt die Weihe mit folgenden Worten vor:

„Euch Symbole des neuen Glaubens und des neuen Reiches, die ihr in Niederländisch-Indien, in Südafrika, in Rumänien, in Polen, in den Niederlanden, in der Schweiz, in Großbritannien und im Sudetenland wehen werdet, die ihr wehen werdet auf deutschen Schiffen, ich weihe euch: Fahnen des Nationalsozialismus, weht für die Ehre Deutschlands und seines Führers. Weht nun in der fernen Welt als Symbol des großen Reiches, das Adolf Hitler schuf! Fahnen, ihr seid geweiht!"

Rudolf Heß gedenkt zum Abschluß seiner Rede der Stuttgarter Tage des vergangenen Jahres, als hier in Stuttgart deutsche Männer und Frauen, deutsche Buben und Mädel in ihren heimischen Trachten erschienen waren, glühend beseelt vom großdeutschen Gedanken, leidenschaftlich bewegt vom Nationalsozialismus, aber doch eben äußerlich Volksdeutsche, Deutsche fremder Staatsangehörigkeit.

„Heute", so fuhr Rudolf Heß fort, „stehen sie auch äußerlich in unseren Reihen. Sie werden stolz und glücklich in den Formationen der nationalsozialistischen Bewegung an ihrem Führer in Nürnberg vorbeimarschieren — diesmal als Reichsdeutsche! Und wir alle sind von Herzen glücklich, wenn wir sie sehen. Sie haben einen langen und zähen Kampf gekämpft, einen Kampf mit einem hinterhältigen und verlogenen Gegner. Sie haben sich ihre Heimat erkämpft, und sie haben sich zu der Liebe, die ihnen Deutschland immer entgegengebracht, die stolze Anerkennung des ganzen Volkes errungen."

Der Kampf der Sudetendeutschen

Rudolf Heß gedenkt hier des ähnlichen Ringens in einer anderen deutschen Volksgruppe um ihr nationales Lebensrecht: „Mit tiefster Anteilnahme für ihre Leiden sieht das deutsche Volk auf die deutschen Volksgenossen in der Tschecho-Slowakei. Niemand auf der Welt, der sein eigenes Volk liebt und stolz auf sein Volk ist, wird es uns verdenken, wenn wir auch hier von dieser Stelle aus unsere Gedanken zu den Sudetendeutschen wenden, wenn wir ihnen sagen, daß wir voller Bewunderung sehen, wie sie trotz schlimmster Schikane, trotz Terror und Mord eiserne Disziplin wahren. Hätte es überhaupt eines Beweises bedurft, daß beste deutsche Tugenden sich im Sudetendeutschtum verkörpern, dann ist es diese eiserne Disziplin und die unerschütterliche Ruhe, die aus dem Gefühl des eigenen Rechts kommt. Ihr wißt es im Sudetenland: Wir sind mit heißem Herzen bei euch. (Mit jubelnder Begeisterung unterstreichen die Massen diesen Gruß des Stellvertreters des Führers an die Sudetendeutschen). **Bei euch liegt das Recht von 3½ Millionen deutscher Menschen, das Recht von Millionen Angehörigen eines großen Volkes, ihr Leben so zu führen und so zu gestalten, wie es die Zugehörigkeit zu diesem Kulturvolk gebietet."**

Der Stellvertreter des Führers schließt seine Rede mit den Worten: „Nach den Stunden des Feierns hier führen uns unsere Lebenswege wieder auseinander. Wir kehren zurück an jene Plätze, auf denen wir arbeiten dürfen für unser Volk, unser Reich und unseren Führer. So wie wir hier sichtbar eine geschlossene Einheit gebildet haben, so bleiben wir auch im Alltag eine unzertrennbare Gemeinschaft, eine Gemeinschaft deutscher Herzen und des deutschen Willens. **Unser politischer Glaube auf dieser Welt ist der Glaube an die Sendung des Führers für Deutschland. In diesem Glauben grüßen wir den Mann, der Deutschlands Schicksal ist: Adolf Hitler Sieg-Heil!"**

Nicht endenwollender Jubel dankte dem Stellvertreter des Führers als er seine von großer Liebe zum gesamten Deutschtum im Auslande zeugende Rede beendete. Mächtig hallen das Sieg-Heil auf den Führer und die Nationalhymnen empor. Mit dem Fahnenausmarsch und dem Vorbeimarsch der Ehrenkompanie vor dem Stellvertreter des Führers schloß die denkwürdige Großkundgebung.

Am Abend nahmen die zahlreichen Ehrengäste an einer Festaufführung des „Rosenkavalier" im Großen Hause der Württembergischen Staatstheater teil, das aus diesem Anlaß ein besonders festliches Gewand angelegt hatte.

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Verein für das Deutschtum im Ausland
Berlin W 30, Martin-Luther-Straße 97

Der Reichsinnenminister für die V. D. A.-Arbeit!

Abschrift II B 7855/27. 4. Berlin, den 24. Februar 1933.
Der Reichsminister des Innern.
H B 7855/4. 2.

An die Landesregierungen.

Betrifft: Verein für das Deutschtum im Ausland,
Deutscher Schulverein e. V.

Bei der Pflege der nationalen Aufgaben hat mein Ministerium in besonderem Maße den Schutz und die Förderung des Grenz- und Auslanddeutschtums ausgeübt. Eine größere Zahl mit Sonderaufgaben auf diesem Gebiete betrauter Einrichtungen wird aus mir zur Verfügung stehenden Mitteln so weit möglich unterstützt. Unter allen diesen nimmt der Verein für das Deutschtum im Ausland, Deutscher Schulverein e. V., Berlin, eine bevorzugte Stellung ein. Seiner durch ein halbes Jahrhundert hindurchgeführten Arbeit ist die Erhaltung so mancher deutschen Schule, Kirche, Zeitung oder sonstigen Einrichtung in den Volkssiedlungen deutscher Abstimmung im Ausland zu verdanken. Ohne die Erhaltung dieser Einrichtungen wären große deutsche Volksgruppen vor allem unter dem Druck der Nachkriegszeit als Kulturdünger fremden Volkstums untergegangen. Leider war in den vergangenen Jahren eine gewisse Zurückhaltung weiter Volkskreise gegenüber der Werbearbeit des genannten Volksvereins festzustellen und auch behördliche Einengungen seiner Tätigkeit sind nicht unterblieben. Es erscheint mir jedoch als dringende Pflicht des Reichs und der Länder, nicht nur solche Hemmungen zu beseitigen, sondern dem Verein für das Deutschtum im Ausland auf allen von ihm gewünschten Gebieten eine größere Entfaltung der Werbung zu ermöglichen. Es darf auch die Rücksicht auf die Not und das Elend der Zeit, auf den Mangel an Arbeit und Brot im Binnendeutschland den Blick nicht davon ablenken, daß die rund 30 Millionen Auslanddeutschen außerhalb der verengerten gegenwärtigen Reichsgrenzen ein Bestandteil des deutschen Gesamtvolkes sind, ein Bestandteil, dem die Reichsregierung zwar wirtschaftlich keine Hilfe zu bringen vermag, dem sie jedoch die kulturelle Stützung durch den in erster Linie hiermit befaßten Verein für das Deutschtum im Ausland zu ermöglichen sich verpflichtet hält.

Ich möchte daher die besondere Aufmerksamkeit der Regierungen der Länder auf die Tätigkeit des Vereins für das Deutschtum im Ausland mit

dem Ziele lenken, daß ihm eine bevorzugte Behandlung zuteil werde. Vornehmlich sind es die Schulgruppen, die die Werbung des Vereins tragen, in denen sich zugleich eine überkonfessionelle und überparteiliche Erziehung der Jugend zum vaterländischen Denken vollzieht. Ich würde daher größten Wert darauf legen, daß seinen Schulsammlungen weitester Spielraum gewährt wird und daß auch den Schülern und Schülerinnen das Tragen von Abzeichen des Vereins innerhalb der Schule gestattet wird. Eine wirksame Belebung dieser Arbeit würde ich mir davon versprechen, wenn die Leitung aller Schulen in ihren Jahresberichten über den Schulbetrieb auch über die Förderung des Vereins für das Deutschtum durch die Schulgruppen jeder Schule den vorgesetzten Behörden gegenüber sich zu äußern angehalten würden.

Zur Weitung des gesamtdeutschen Bewußtseins der Jugend über die Reichsgrenzen hinweg hat im vergangenen Jahre, von besonderen Wünschen des Herrn Reichspräsidenten geleitet, im Berliner Stadion das „Fest der deutschen Schule" mit großem Erfolge abgehalten werden können. Im laufenden Kalenderjahr soll das „Fest der deutschen Schule" außerdem in Beuthen, Breslau, Erfurt, Düsseldorf, Gera, Gladbeck, Köslin, Köln, München, Nürnberg, Karlsruhe, Stettin u. a. stattfinden. Ich würde es begrüßen, wenn das „Fest der deutschen Schule" in weiten Kreisen des Reichs zur Einführung käme, da kein Vorhaben geeigneter ist, alle Schulen, somit auch gerade die Volksschulen, in den Dienst des Auslanddeutschtums zu stellen, während die große Reichstagung des VDA. stets nur Gruppen, vor allem solche der höheren Schulen, erfaßt. Ich beehre mich daher, die Regierungen der Länder besonders auf die Einführung des „Festes der deutschen Schule" hinzuweisen, damit die Schulbehörden veranlaßt werden, sich hinter die Veranstaltung zu stellen, und durch besondere Erlasse, wie es in Berlin geschehen ist, die Vorbereitungen des Festes erleichtern.

Neben der Schularbeit des Vereins für das Deutschtum im Ausland hat seine allgemeine Werbung in der Oeffentlichkeit an ernster Bedeutung für das Weiterbestehen der deutschen Volksgruppen im Ausland in demselben Ausmaße gewonnen, in dem angesichts der Finanzlage von Reich und Ländern die Möglichkeit aus Etatsmitteln unmittelbare Zuschüsse zu gewähren, geringer geworden ist. Im vergangenen Jahre hat mit Genehmigung des Preuß. Staatskommissars für die Regelung der Wohlfahrtspflege in ganz Preußen eine Landessammlung stattgefunden, die trotz der schlechten Wirtschaftslage angesichts des nationalen Erwachens des deutschen Volkes einen erfreulichen Erfolg gehabt hat, so daß es dem Verein gelungen ist, die erhebliche Verringerung seiner sonstigen Einnahmen durch die neuen Sammlungen annähernd auszugleichen. Die Bitte des Vereins, ihm durch Fürsprache bei den Regierungen der Länder die Durchführung dieser Landessammlung im ganzen Reichsgebiet zu ermöglichen, wird daher von mir lebhaft befürwortet. Der Erfolg der vorjährigen Sammlung war darauf zurückzuführen, daß in Preußen die Oberpräsidenten, die Regierungspräsidenten und die Landräte sich dankenswerterweise selbst in den Dienst der Sache gestellt haben. Ich wäre dankbar, wenn nunmehr alle Länderregierungen die Landessammlung zulassen und in gleicher Weise förderten.

Für eine zustimmende Aeußerung zu meinen vorstehenden Ausführungen, gegebenenfalls für eine Mitteilung über das bereits Veranlaßte wäre ich dankbar.

Dem Auswärtigen Amt habe ich Abschrift übersandt.

gez. [illegible]

H3781 – 0025

DOCUMENT 37–A

(Translation)

VEREIN FÜR DAS DEUTSCHTUM IM AUSLAND
(LEAGUE FOR GERMANDOM IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES)
BERLIN W 30, MARTIN LUTHER STREET 97

THE REICH'S MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR IS FOR THE VDA WORK!

TRANSCRIPT II B 7855/27.4
THE REICH'S MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR
II B 7855/4.2

BERLIN, *February 24, 1933*

To the Governments of the Federal States
(*Landesregierungen*)

Re: Verein für das Deutschtum in Ausland,
(League for Germandom in Foreign Countries)
Deutscher Schulverein e.V.
(German School League, Inc.)

My Ministry in its attention to national tasks has to a special degree exercised protection over and furtherance of Germandom in the border countries and Germandom in foreign countries. A large number of institutions concerned with special tasks in this sphere are being supported as far as possible by means at my disposal. Among all these the *League for Germandom in Foreign Countries*, German School League, Inc., Berlin, enjoys an *especially favored position.* To its work carried on for half a century is due the maintenance of so many German schools, churches, newspapers, or other institutions in the German settlements in foreign countries. Without such maintenance of these institutions large German folk-groups, especially under the pressure of the post-war period, would have perished as cultural fertilizer for foreign peoples. Unfortunately in past years a certain reserve among wide circles of the population was noticeable with regard to the propaganda work of the above-named national League, and also administrative restrictions on its activities have not been left undone. It appears to me, therefore, as an urgent duty of the Reich and of the federal states not only to set aside such hindrances but also to enable the League for Germandom in Foreign Countries to unfold the increased propaganda work in all spheres which it desires. Also, regard for the needs and misery of the time, and for the lack of work and bread within Germany, ought not to divert attention from the fact that the around 30 million Germans

in foreign countries (*Auslanddeutschen*) outside of the present contracted borders of the Reich are an integral part of the entire German people. They are an integral part, which the Reich's Government is not able to help economically, but whose cultural support through the league primarily concerned with this, the League for Germandom in Foreign Countries, it considers it is obligated to make possible.

I should like accordingly to direct the special attention of the governments of the federal states to the activity of the League for Germandom in Foreign Countries with the idea that it *be accorded privileged treatment.* It is primarily the school groups which carry on the propaganda work of the League, in which at the same time the education of the youth to patriotic thinking takes place, an education which is above denominational and party differences. I will, therefore, attach the greatest value to the fact that its school meetings be accorded the greatest freedom of action and that the pupils be allowed to wear the insignia of the League in the schools. I would expect an effective enlivenment of this work, *if the supervisors of all the schools, in their annual reports to their superior authorities concerning the school activities, will be urged to report the furtherance of the League by the school groups of each school.*

Last year, in accordance with the particular desire of the Reich's President, the "German School Celebration", aiming to extend the pan-German consciousness of our youth beyond the borders of the Reich, was held with great success in the Berlin Stadium. Moreover, in the current year the "German School Celebration" is to take place in Beuthen, Breslau, Erfurt, Düsseldorf, Gera, Gladbeck, Köslin, Cologne, Munich, Nuremberg, Karlsruhe, and Stettin, among others. I would welcome it, if the "German School Celebration" could be introduced extensively through the Reich, since no project is more suited to put *all* the schools, and especially the *elementary* schools, in the service of Germandom in foreign countries, while the big national assembly of the VDA always affects only groups, primarily those from the higher schools. I am honored, therefore, to refer the governments of the federal states especially to the introduction of the "German School Celebration", so that the school authorities may be induced to support this event and to facilitate the preparations for the celebration by special orders, as has occurred in Berlin.

Along with the school work of the League for Germandom in Foreign Countries, its general propaganda work among the public has assumed greater significance for the continuance of the German folk-groups in foreign countries in the same measure in which, in view of the financial situation of the Reich and of the federal states, the possibility of granting direct subsidies from the budget has become smaller. In the last year, with the approval of the Prussian State Commissar

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for the Regulation of Relief Work, a collection has taken place in all Prussia and, despite the poor economic situation, has had gratifying results in view of the national awakening of the German people, so that the League has approximately succeeded through the new collections in compensating for the considerable decrease of its other income. The request of the League, by intercession with the governments of the federal states to enable it to carry out this collection throughout the whole of the Reich, is accordingly most cordially seconded by me. The success of last year's collection was due to the fact that in Prussia the Senior Presidents, the Governing Presidents, and the State Councilors have devoted themselves to the service of the cause in the most commendable way. I would be grateful if all the governments of the federal states permit this collection and further it in the same way.

I would appreciate an answer approving my preceding remarks, and in the given case a report concerning what has already been done.

I have sent a copy to the Foreign Office.

Signed, FRICK

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PART III

NAZI ORGANIZATIONS WORKING AMONG GERMANS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND USE OF ORGANIZED GERMAN MINORITIES IN FURTHERANCE OF GERMAN INTERESTS

H3781 – 0029

ORGANIZATIONS EMPLOYED BY THE NAZIS TO REGULATE THE LIFE AND ACTIVITIES OF GERMANS ABROAD

The Foreign Organization

1. HISTORY AND GROWTH OF POWER

The first National Socialist organizations among Germans abroad were for the most part founded independently, without direct stimulus or encouragement from German sources. However, in 1930, a small group of Nazi Party men in Hamburg, having become conscious of the possibilities for organized party activity among Germans abroad, undertook the preparatory work for a Party Office to deal with problems concerning party members and Germans abroad. This Office was formally established by an order of the Reich's Nazi Organization Directorate of May 1, 1931, being designated then as the "Foreign Section of the Reich's Directorate of the NSDAP".[1] (Document 23, *post* p. 285). With headquarters in Hamburg, the Office was placed under the direction of Dr. Hans Nieland. According to this order every party member abroad, or residing permanently in a foreign country, was under the supervision of the Foreign Section of the Nazi Party. The first phase of the work, up to 1933, was devoted to a consolidation of the Nazi groups abroad already in existence and the establishment of numerous new branches and local groups, so that the first unification of these into groups covering an entire foreign country was soon necessary. In fact, the first country-wide Nazi Party organization abroad was founded in Paraguay in 1931.

At that time, however, the Nazi Party was too much concerned with German affairs to place much stress on foreign activities. In the first months after the party's accession to power in January 1933, it was even questioned whether the existence of a Foreign Section was justified. Since then, however, it has apparently consistently proved its usefulness, having grown steadily in power and importance. On May 8, 1933 it was put in charge of its present leader, Ernst Wilhelm Bohle, a protégé of Rudolf Hess, who was Hitler's Deputy at that time, and on October 3, 1933 it was placed directly under Hess, Bohle becoming a member of the staff of the Führer's Deputy with the rank of Gauleiter. The present designa-

[1] Ehrich, *op. cit.*, p. 9.

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To educate to political creativeness is just as impossible as to educate to genius. Education can only furnish the spiritual atmosphere, can only prepare the spiritual living-space for the politically creative personality by forming a uniform political consciousness in the socialistic personality, and in the development of politically creative personalities it can at the most give special attention to those values of character and spirit which are of decisive importance for the development of this personality." [61]

Goebbels in *The Nature and Form of National Socialism* (document 2, *post* p. 170) emphasizes the responsibility of the party for the leadership of the state:

"The party must always continue to represent the hierarchy of National Socialist leadership. This minority must always insist upon its prerogative to control the state. It must keep the way open for the German youth which wishes to take its place in this hierarchy. In reality the hierarchy has fewer rights than duties! It is responsible for the leadership of the state and it solemnly relieves the people of this responsibility. It has the duty to control the state in the best interests and to the general welfare of the nation." [62]

Dr. Frick, German Minister of the Interior, in his chapter in *Germany Speaks* indicates the exclusive position of the party in the Third Reich:

"National Socialist Germany, however, is not merely a unitary state: it is also a unitary nation and its governance is based on the principle of leadership . . .

"In National Socialist Germany, leadership is in the hands of an organised community, the National Socialist Party; and as the latter represents the will of the nation, the policy adopted by it in harmony with the vital interests of the nation is at the same time the policy adopted by the country . . . The National Socialist Party is the only political party in Germany and therefore the true representative of the people . . ." [63]

To Dr. Ley, the party is identical with the Führer. As he wrote in the *Angriff* on April 9, 1942 (document 6, *post* p. 184), "The National Socialist Party is Hitler, and Hitler is the party."

The role of the party in legislation, in political matters, and in the appointment of Government officials is indicated by the Führer's decree of May 29, 1941, [64] as amplified by the order of January 16, 1942, concerning its execution. [65] (Document 9, *post* p. 212). This order provides that all legislative proposals and proposed laws and decrees, as well as any proposed changes therein, must pass through and receive the approval of the Party Chancelry.

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[61] *Ibid.*, pp. 37–38.
[62] Goebbels, *op. cit.*, p. 19.
[63] *Germany Speaks*, pp. 30–31.
[64] *Reichsgesetzblatt* (1941), p. 295.
[65] *Ibid.* (1942), p. 35.

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tion, "Foreign Organization of the NSDAP",[2] was ordered by Hess on February 17, 1934.[3] In view of the growth of the organization under Bohle's energetic leadership and to further an increased development the central office of the Foreign Organization was transferred to Berlin in the middle of March 1936. The Maritime Division, which dealt with German seamen, remained in Hamburg.

Since there had been considerable friction between the agents of the Foreign Organization and the officials of the German Government's foreign services, the German Foreign Service (diplomatic and consular officials) was inducted in October 1935 as a professional group into the Foreign Organization, thus insuring the collaboration of the Foreign Service men abroad with the Nazi Party agents. With regard to this, Dr. Ehrich, one of Gauleiter Bohle's chief aides, is quoted by the Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro, the official German news agency, as saying, "a decisive step has been taken in strengthening National Socialist leadership among Germans abroad; it is to be hoped that this new arrangement will contribute to a close cooperation between party and state in all fields of foreign effort. Every German abroad knew that only through the Foreign Organization and its numerous cells could he maintain a real connection with what was happening in the Reich. The official of the Foreign Service must feel himself to be a true fellow German and the trusted helper and National Socialist friend of his countrymen."

The Foreign Organization received its definitive sanction when on January 30, 1937 Bohle was transferred to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, assuming the title "Head of the Foreign Organization in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs". Whereas formerly the jurisdiction of his organization had nominally merely extended to Nazi Party members abroad, at this time it was explicitly enlarged to include *all* German citizens abroad. The preamble to this decree gives as the purpose of Bohle's installation in the Foreign Office "the unified care and control [*Betreuung*] of the German citizens in foreign countries".[4] The vast extent of Bohle's powers is clear, the preamble stating further that "the direction and handling of all matters concerning German citizens abroad are transferred to him". Although according to the provision of the decree Bohle was placed personally and directly under the German Foreign Ministry, the Foreign Ministry appears to have exercised only a very general control over his work, and it is known that he possessed the privilege of addressing instructions, through the German diplomatic pouches, to the party's agents abroad.

[2] The Foreign Organization of the NSDAP is known in German as "Die Auslands-Organisation der NSDAP", or more familiarly as the "AO".

[3] Ehrich, *op. cit.*, p. 9.

[4] *Ibid.*, p. 31.

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To further reinforce the party's grip upon the Foreign Office, which was progressively and effectively tightened during 1937, the officials of the Foreign Office and all members of the Foreign Service throughout the world were organized into a party group, an "*Ortsgruppe*", under the authority of Bohle. While the group rested under the supreme authority of Bohle in his capacity as representative of the party sovereignty in the Foreign Office, Dr. Rosenberg and a Herr Kruger were named *Ortsgruppenleiter* and deputy leader, respectively, both being Bohle men brought into the Foreign Office from the party's Foreign Organization. On December 22, 1937 it was announced in the *Völkischer Beobachter*, the official party newspaper, that Bohle had been given the rank of Secretary of State in the Foreign Office and that decisions taken by him and issued in the form of orders with his signature would have the force of "ministerial decisions" or instructions of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. It was understood that this established an even greater independence for Bohle and that it would enable Bohle to compel members of the regular Foreign Service to promote the work of his Foreign Organization.

In the official party program of the NSDAP, published first in 1927, Gottfried Feder wrote, "Not to 'assimilate themselves' to foreign ways but to maintain their own superior German ways, that must be the task of Germans abroad and of our official representatives. An iron broom must go through the dusty Foreign Office for this purpose also."[5] In fulfilling this demand, as the Nazis have done with such logical consequence in so many other spheres of activity, Bohle and the party's Foreign Organization served as the "iron broom".

2. STRUCTURE AND ACTIVITIES

The Foreign Organization of the Nazi Party has a curious double position and status in the complicated arrangement of the Nazi party-state. As we have seen, the director of the party's Foreign Organization, Bohle, was appointed Chief of the Foreign Organization in the Foreign Office, and as such he is directly and personally responsible to the Foreign Minister. However, his field of activity as leader of the party's Foreign Organization and his responsibility as such to the Führer's Deputy[6] remain unchanged. Although Bohle himself moved to the Foreign Office, taking with him many members of his former staff, the Foreign Organization of the party as such remained in its quarters at 4A Tiergarten Strasse, Berlin, continuing to operate

[5] Feder, *Das Programm der NSDAP* (Munich, Franz Eher Verlag, Central Publishing House of the NSDAP, 1933), p. 42 (1st ed. 1927).

[6] After Hess' flight to England, the Office of the Führer's Deputy was redesignated by a decree of May 29, 1941 the "Party Chancelry" and placed under the direction of Reichsleiter Martin Bormann, formerly Hess' staff leader. *Reichsgesetzblatt* (1941), p. 295.

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In a talk at Vienna on October 24, 1936 Bohle went so far as to say:

> "For the Foreign Organization of the NSDAP and for me, as its responsible leader, it is a particular pleasure to be able to say after only a few years that the unconditional will to cooperation with the new state has overcome and swept along every single German national regardless of all boundaries and unto the farthest corners of the earth." [20] (Document 27, *post* p. 358.)

(b) National Socialist Racial Community as the Basis for Unification

Whatever success the Foreign Organization has had in the unification of all Germandom abroad, from the ideologic side, doubtless comes from the principle of the German "racial community". As Bohle himself stated at the Foreign Organization's meeting in 1937:

> "Without the Führer and his conception, which takes hold of and encompasses all Germans, it would be senseless to attempt unification of Germandom abroad. The German racial community, preached by Adolf Hitler, was the only basis on which a unification of Germandom abroad could have taken place. It is necessary to keep this fact in mind, when on looking back we confirm how differently it looks today out there in comparison with the previous period." [21] (Document 26–A, *post* pp. 347–348.)

No meeting of the Foreign Organization, no address or article of any of its directors, fails to stress the significance of the "racial community" for Germans abroad. At the party congress in 1936 Bohle declared:

> ". . . our Germanism abroad is composed of individual Germans who can only live as Germans if they form among themselves an *indestructible community* and if this community is incorporated in the community which Adolf Hitler has given the racial comrades in the Reich. *We believe in the eternal value of the race and the blood* and we feel ourselves the appointed *protectors of these values in foreign Germanism.* A state which is built on the iron laws of blood and race, like the National Socialist Reich, cannot do other than accept its own blood always and everywhere even in the remotest corner of the earth." [22] (Document 25, *post* pp. 314–315.)

At the Foreign Organization's annual assembly of Germans living abroad, in 1937 at Stuttgart, Rudolf Hess, at that time the Führer's Deputy, addressed the audience as follows:

> "My German racial comrades, men and women! German seamen!

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[20] *Wir Deutsche in der Welt* (published by the Verband Deutscher Vereine im Ausland: Berlin, 1937), p. 21.

[21] Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro, 1st morning bulletin of Aug. 30, 1937.

[22] *Der Parteitag der Ehre* (Munich, 1936), pp. 124–125.

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"You stand before me as a slice of the great German racial community, the racial community which extends beyond the borders of our Reich, for National Socialism has not only at home created a national community transcending all classes and groups in a way previously unknown, but it has also included German racial comrades in foreign countries. It has made them conscious and proud members of this racial community!" [23] (Document 26–A, *post* pp. 351–352.)

In an account of the Führer's talk to Germans from abroad at the 1935 party congress it is recorded that—

"The Führer then expressed the idea that the German people is today not merely a state, but that it has become a racial corpus [*Volkskörper*] which is pulsing with a vital and inner life. This is the great thing which National Socialism has given to the German people: that the German who goes to a foreign country nowadays is not a lost member but remains a living member of the people's community. The individual knows then that his life for the community is not in any sense a lost life but that he can be somehow useful and helpful for the totality of the people even though he may remain abroad. That is the miracle of the National Socialist organization and leadership of the people." [24] (Document 28, *post* p. 363.)

Although the "racial community" is the foremost idea propounded as the basis for unifying all Germans abroad, other typically Nazi ideas are often set forth as binding notions for all Germans. For instance, Hess, at the 1937 assembly of Germans living abroad, invited the participants to attend the Reich's party congress in the following terms:

"You will see the man who created the idea of the Führer, and who himself as the first Führer has put with this idea the strongest clamp around Germany and all the Germans of the world." [25] (Document 26–A, *post* p. 353.)

(c) Systematic Opposition to Assimilation of Germans

The idea of "racial community", of course, entails the repudiation of any assimilation by the populations of foreign countries. Most striking expressions of this are found in Bohle's address at the party congress in 1936:

"The Führer had to come in order to hammer into all of us the fact that the German cannot choose and may not choose whether or not he will be German but that he was sent into this world by God as a German and that God thereby had laid upon him as a German duties of which he cannot divest himself without committing treason to Providence. *Therefore, we believe and we know that the German everywhere is a German*—whether he lives in the Reich or in Japan, in France or in China, or anywhere else in the world. *Not countries or continents, not climate or environment but blood and race determine the world of ideas of the German.*" [26] (Document 25, *post* p. 315.)

[23] Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro, 3d morning bulletin of Aug. 30, 1937.
[24] *Der Parteitag der Freiheit* (Munich, 1935), p. 120.
[25] Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro, 1st forenoon bulletin of Aug. 30, 1937.

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Accordingly:

"The Foreign Organization wishes to preserve for the Reich every German wherever he may be in the world, be he rich or poor, young or old, in the knowledge that no sin is greater than that of *voluntarily* abandoning German blood." [27] (Document 25, *post* p. 315.)

Furthermore:

"It is not necessary for the new Reich to permit its racial comrades abroad inactively to fall prey to foreign and un-German ideas so that they may then become estranged from the Reich itself." [28] (Document 25, *post* p. 316.)

In the 1937 meeting he expressed the same idea thus:

"We foreign German National Socialists reject the conception of the universal German, whose prime endeavor is to adapt himself everywhere, because this universal German not only makes himself ridiculous among the foreigners but also consciously or unconsciously repudiates his Germanism with this self-abandonment." [29] (Document 26–A, *post* p. 349.)

At the same meeting Rudolf Hess stated clearly and bluntly:

"Under the leadership of the Foreign Organization, Germandom abroad is also becoming more and more *filled with the National Socialist spirit*. The Foreign Organization of the NSDAP has brought together the Germans out there, who even long after the seizure of power were disunited and split by class differences, and joined them with Adolf Hitler's Reich. The National Socialist care for Germandom abroad is maintaining an enormous number of Germans for the nation, who otherwise would be absorbed as cultural fertilizer for other nations." [30] Document 26–A, *post* p. 352.)

(d) Obligation To Remain Loyal to Nazi Germany

The summons is accordingly issued to all Germans abroad to remain German, and this with its Nazi implications is their prime obligation. At the 1937 meeting Baron von Neurath, then the German Foreign Minister, related this in an old-fashioned way to the notion of protection, saying:

[26] *Der Parteitag der Ehre* (Munich, 1937), p. 125.
[27] *Ibid.*, p. 125.
[28] *Ibid.*, p. 126.
[29] Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro, 2d morning bulletin of Aug. 30, 1937.
[30] Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro, 3d morning bulletin of Aug. 30, 1937.

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"Every German living abroad now knows that even in a foreign country he remains a living member of the German national community. He knows that he can count on the sure protection of his home state for himself and his interests. He will in return also feel within himself the obligation to remain a part of his people and to serve it according to his powers." [31] (Document 26–A, *post* p. 350.)

In a talk at Vienna in 1936, Bohle furnished a more Nazi statement of the matter when he declared:

"In this, the Foreign Organization has followed wholly new paths; it has deliberately turned aside from the old unsuitable idea of the pure protection of foreign Germandom, a protection which is of no use to the Reich and in one way or another must give Germans abroad the feeling of not belonging to the people of the Reich in the same measure as a racial comrade in the Reich itself.

"For a master race, however, a protection of this kind would be humiliating. The Foreign Organization has, therefore, deliberately begun its work by placing upon foreign Germandom obligations to the new Reich, and it is a cause of pride for our German nationals beyond the borders that almost all of them have joyfully accepted these obligations." [32]

(Document 27, *post* p. 358.)

Subsequent sections, especially those which depict the role that German minorities have played in the Nazi conquest of Europe, indicate the nature of the obligations.

(e) Instructions Regarding Behavior Abroad

Germans living abroad are repeatedly ordered and exhorted in these official pronouncements to observe the laws of the country where they are residing and to refrain from any activity connected with its internal affairs. Of the Ten Commandments stamped on the foreign certificate of every party member residing abroad, the first two are as follows:

"1. Observe the laws of the country whose guest you are.

"2. Leave the politics of the country where you reside to its inhabitants. You are not concerned with the internal politics of a foreign country. Take no part in them, even in conversation." [33]

(Document 24, *post* p. 311.)

As Baron von Neurath affirmed at the Foreign Organization's meeting in 1937:

"We know, of course, and we are the last to seek to put any false interpretation on it, that the hospitality which is granted foreign citizens in a country obligates them to abstain strictly from any meddling in the internal affairs of the foreign country and obligates them to observe the general laws prevailing there." [34]

(Document 26–A, *post* p. 351.)

[31] *Ibid.*

[32] *Wir Deutsche in der Welt* (Berlin, 1937), pp. 21–22.

[33] *Almanach der nationalsozialistischen Revolution* (Berlin, 1934), p. 94.

[34] Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro, 3d morning bulletin of Aug. 30, 1937.

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And he attempts to interpret the installation of Bohle as Chief of the Foreign Organization in the Foreign Office as a guaranty for the observation of these principles, a statement repeated by Bohle some months later at Budapest.[35]

At the 1935 meeting of Germans living abroad, Hess, in giving the oath of allegiance to the Führer, did not hesitate to assure the Germans from abroad that the Führer—

"will never give you any command which cannot be reconciled with the laws of the country where you are living".[36] (Document 28, *post* p. 365.)

At the 1937 meeting, Hess' assurances went even further, when he declared:

"The National Socialist Germans are loyal to the country where they reside just as they are loyal citizens *of their own homeland.*" [37] (Document 26–A, *post* p. 353.)

Bohle even had the temerity to state, in a talk before the German colony at Vienna on October 24, 1936:

"Just as I have repeatedly announced this basic principle of my organization, so I will declare unambiguously here today in Vienna that every German national abroad, regardless of whether he is a member of the party or not, has the primary duty of keeping out of things which do not concern the Reich. I never permit our German nationals abroad to become involved in the internal political affairs of other countries." [38] (Document 27, *post* p. 357.)

The events in Austria a year and a half later revealed the value of such assertions.

(f) Professed Harmlessness

Following the usual Nazi practice of bold lying, the Nazi leaders have made repeated professions of the pacific purposes of the Foreign Organization since 1937, when the Foreign Organization was beginning to unfold its fifth-column activities. At the Foreign Organization's assembly in 1937, Bohle declared:

"The attempts to make it appear as if National Socialists abroad were exclusively spies or political agents—principally as the last attempt at a discrimination—one sees recently even in newspapers which want to be taken seriously. It is amusing to read that Germany is training all housemaids abroad as spies and that the Nazi men themselves have as their chief task to transform the foreign countries concerned into Hitler-colonies.

[35] *Jahrbuch für auswärtige Politik* (Berlin, 1938), p. 16.

[36] *Der Parteitag der Freiheit* (Munich, 1935), p. 122.

[37] Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro, 1st forenoon bulletin of Aug. 30, 1937.

[38] *Wir Deutsche in der Welt* (Berlin, 1937), pp. 19–20.

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"Because there are still people in foreign countries who believe such things, I should like here especially to assure them that we are not training the housemaids as spies and that we have not ordered the Nazis living abroad to conquer foreign countries."[39] (Document 26-A, *post* p. 349.)

Attempting to pour further ridicule on the same notion, Hess included the following remarks in his address at that meeting:

"From time to time the Foreign Organization of the NSDAP enjoys the especially loving attention of foreign politicians. . . . Our youngest party Gau is made to appear a sinister secret organization.

"You, my party comrades abroad, become spiders in the enormous network of espionage. It is really frightening to hear how you bear the poison of fatal doctrines to foreign peoples and how great world empires are threatened by you, and it is terrifying to hear how you poor fellows must constantly report at the central offices of the NSDAP morning, afternoon, and evening, in order to report, I would almost like to say, whether you have had a good or bad dream about National Socialism."[40] (Document 26-A, *post* p. 352.)

And continued, by attributing the Nazis' own activities to others:

"Naturally the wirepullers want nothing else than to divert attention from those who really threaten the peace of the nations. For it is not *we* who use our commercial offices as agencies for the disintegration of the nations who are our hosts. *We* do not smuggle inflammatory articles in foreign languages into other countries. *We* are not organizing the underworld of other states as the storm troops of civil war."[41] (Document 26-A, *post* p. 352.)

With cunning blandness Hess then introduced a theme later used by Bohle in the same way:

"Does one really believe that we are so dumb, that if we wanted to set up an organization for espionage, we would then use for this purpose our so visible branches, local groups, and country groups abroad?"[42] (Document 26-A, *post* p. 353.)

In his talk at Budapest early in 1938 Bohle stated:

"Not only the structure of our organization but likewise its entire work is carried on so clearly and openly before the whole world that it would be simply childish stupidity on our part to engage in, for example, espionage through such channels. One

[39] Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro, 2d morning bulletin of Aug. 30, 1937.
[40] *Ibid.*, 3d morning bulletin of Aug. 30, 1937.
[41] *Ibid.*, 1st forenoon bulletin of Aug. 30, 1937.
[42] *Ibid.*

does not place spies and similar agents in the light of publicity."[43] (Document 29, *post* p. 370.)

In this connection the Nazi leaders were wont to profess that National Socialism was not an article for export. In 1937 Hess used these strong words:

"*We can declare with a pure conscience: We do not want National Socialism to trickle into other peoples as poison! We likewise do not wish to force it on other peoples. We do not even want to give it away to other peoples. On the contrary: We are jealously concerned to keep National Socialism for ourselves.*"[44] (Document 26-A, *post* p. 352.)

Again at Budapest in 1938 Bohle repeated this:

"Anyone who has concerned himself even superficially with the doctrines of National Socialism in Germany must know that this philosophy is a purely internal point of view which we jealously protect and never expect to export."[45] (Document 29, *post* pp. 374–375.)

In 1938 Hess told the assembled Germans from abroad:

"You have joined up in the Foreign Organization of the NSDAP in order to cultivate your Germanism and in order to be good National Socialists. Your Germanism and your National Socialism are your own private concern. You are not engaged in any '*pénétration pacifique*', you do not at all seek 'in a peaceful way to permeate' the host peoples with National Socialism. No, your Germanism and your National Socialism are your own private concern and remain also your most private concern."[46] (Document 30-A, *post* p. 385.)

In October 1937 in London Bohle expressed in classic terms what the National Socialists abroad claimed to be doing:

"The National Socialists do not disseminate hatred and discord, but are anxious to deliver the messages of goodwill emanating from a country whose Leader loves peace because he loves his people and wants to make them happy."[47] (Document 31, *post* p. 396.)

(g) German Citizens? Or All Those of German Origin?

With regard to the question whether the activities of the Foreign Organization extended beyond German citizens to include German racial comrades of foreign citizenship, it will be noted that the activi-

[43] *Jahrbuch für auswärtige Politik* (Berlin, 1938), p. 19.
[44] Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro, 1st forenoon bulletin of Aug. 30, 1937.
[45] *Jahrbuch für auswärtige Politik* (Berlin, 1938), p. 25.
[46] *Der Montag* (daily newspaper of Berlin, Germany), 2d ed., Aug. 29, 1938.
[47] *Germany Speaks*, pp. 341–342.

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ties of the Foreign Organization are usually discussed in terms of German racial comrades in general. No distinction is made, especially in the earlier speeches, between German citizens and those of German origin who had adopted citizenship in another country. From 1937 on, however, in view of the growing opposition to the Foreign Organization's activities from neighboring European countries and countries abroad, the leaders of the Foreign Organization found it expedient to state explicitly that their work was only concerned with German citizens.

At the Foreign Organization's meeting in Stuttgart in 1937 Bohle affirmed:

> "We concern ourselves with our citizens in foreign countries and only with our citizens, and we care for their connection with the Reich and for the maintenance of their Germanism." [48] (Document 26-A, *post* p. 349.)

A month later in London Bohle repeated the same profession:

> "Within the scope of the Foreign Office I am responsible for all questions that concern citizens of the Reich living abroad. The fact that I have nothing whatever to do with non-German nationals—either in my capacity as a member of the National Socialist Party or owing to my connection with the Foreign Office—has been emphasised so often as to require no further reference. All statements to the effect, for instance, that I make it my business to organise the German minorities in foreign countries are pure inventions; and nobody knows this better than the governments of the countries concerned. I am here referring, of course, to those of German origin abroad who are citizens of the countries in which they live." [49] (Document 31, *post* p. 391.)

Again at Budapest in 1938 Bohle explicitly repeated this declaration made in London, adding:

> "The German Reich has never expected or wished that the Germans of Hungarian nationality should be anything but a true and loyal part of the Hungarian state. If attempts are made by individuals or irresponsible organizations to arouse Germans of Hungarian nationality against the Hungarian state, I can give the emphatic assurance that such plots will be most sharply condemned on the part of Germany." [50] (Document 29, *post* p. 374.)

As Bohle put the issue:

> "The interest of the German Reich in Germans of Hungarian nationality is not political but purely cultural." [51] (Document 29, *post* p. 374).

[48] Deutsches Nachrichtenbüro, 2d morning bulletin of Aug. 30, 1937.
[49] *Germany Speaks*, p. 334.
[50] *Jahrbuch für auswärtige Politik* (Berlin, 1938), p. 24.
[51] *Ibid.*

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In terms of Nazi ideology itself, as may be clearly seen from the discussions in previous sections, such a distinction, however, is entirely specious. Even in the same address the inevitable connection between the two is implied by Bohle's remark:

> "Since the Nazi Party in the new Reich possesses the exclusive right to determine the philosophical and political views of the entire people, the Foreign Organization has logically been established for the leadership of all German citizens abroad." [52] (Document 29, *post* p. 367.)

In the same passage he stated:

> "Through my appointment as Chief of the Foreign Organization in the Foreign Office on January 30, 1937 this union of party and state received clear expression also in the supervision of foreign Germandom." [53] (Document 29, *post* p. 368.)

Farther on he admitted:

> "When we speak in general of foreign Germandom we understand thereby not only German nationals abroad but also persons of German origin." [54] (Document 29, *post* 368.)

Although Bohle immediately professed to make the proper distinction in practice, the evidence indicates that no such distinction in practice ever existed. There was a convenient ambiguity in modes of expression, there were dummy organizations and diverse subterfuges, but no essential obligatory distinction between German racial comrades of German and foreign citizenship. Just as the Nazi ideology encompassed all German racial comrades regardless of their citizenship, likewise the Foreign Organization sought to encompass all those of German extraction who could be reached, by whatever means possible. While Nazi policy contemplated the furtherance of German interests through the establishment of compact German racial minorities wherever Germans resided throughout the world, the Foreign Organization represented the official party organ for the fulfilment of all German aims beyond the borders of the Reich.

The story of Austria and of Czechoslovakia is well known, but in the following account of Hess' address at the Foreign Organization's assembly in August 1938—in the period between the absorption of Austria and the destruction of Czechoslovakia—there is testimony both as to the role of the racial comrades (*Volksdeutsche*) and the facility with which the "outward sign" of foreign citizenship was sloughed off. At the close of this talk Rudolf Hess recalled—

> "the day last year in Stuttgart when German men and women, German boys and girls, in their native costumes . . . appeared

[52] *Ibid.*, p. 16.
[53] *Ibid.*
[54] *Ibid.*, p. 17.

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here in Stuttgart, completely animated by the great German idea, passionately moved by National Socialism but nevertheless outwardly *Volksdeutsche*, Germans of foreign citizenship [namely, Austrian].

"'Today', Rudolf Hess continued, 'they also stand openly in our ranks. They will be proud and happy to march in the formations of the National Socialist movement past their Führer in Nuremberg—this time as German citizens! . . .'

"*Rudolf Hess then recalls the similar struggle of another German folk-group for its national right to live: The German people looks at the German racial comrades in Czechoslovakia with the profoundest sympathy for their suffering. No one in the world, who loves his own people and is proud of his own people, will find fault with us, if from this place here we also turn our thoughts to the Sudeten Germans, if we say to them that we see with complete admiration how they are maintaining an iron discipline, despite the worst chicanery, despite terror and murder. If it had in general required a proof, that the best German virtues are embodied in Sudeten Germandom, then it is proved by this iron discipline and this steadfast calm, which comes from the feeling of one's own right. You in Sudetenland know: We stand by you, with passionate hearts.* (The masses emphasize this greeting of the Führer's Deputy to the Sudeten Germans with jubilant enthusiasm.) *The right of three and one-half million German men lies with you, the right of millions of members of a great people to conduct their life and so to shape it as adherence to this people of culture demands.*"[55]

(Document 30-A, *post* 386.)

Presaging future events in a backhanded way, Bohle stated in his speech at Budapest in 1938:

"I think I may also say that the Germans of Hungarian nationality are the last who would wish to serve as a pretext for the assertion that the German Reich has designs on the integrity of the Hungarian state."[56] (Document 29, *post* p. 374.)

The Germans of Polish nationality, well prepared by Nazi agitation, were ready, however, to serve as the desired pretext against Poland.

4. CENTRAL CONTROLLING AGENCY OVER ALL OTHER ORGANIZATIONS PROMOTING GERMANISM

A large number of quasi-independent German agencies have engaged in diverse activities among those of German extraction living in foreign countries. We shall consider in some detail only those two major institutions which were most active in the United States, the Deutsches Ausland-Institut (DAI, German Foreign Institute), Stuttgart, and the Volksbund für das Deutschtum im Ausland (VDA, League for Germandom in Foreign Countries), Berlin. Before doing

[55] *Der Montag* (Berlin daily newspaper), Aug. 29, 1938.
[56] *Jahrbuch für auswärtige Politik* (Berlin, 1938), p. 25.

so, it must be reiterated, however, that the Foreign Organization of the NSDAP functioned as a central agency controlling the activities of all the organizations promoting Germanism abroad. In his monograph entitled *Die Auslands-Organisation der NSDAP*, Dr. Emil Ehrich, personal adviser to the Gauleiter of the Foreign Organization, closes his description of the Foreign Organization's Department for Culture with the following words: "In the last analysis it is the central office for all the numerous organizations and bureaus which are aiming at a spiritual and cultural exchange with Germandom abroad."[57] (Document 23, *post* p. 298.)

THE VDA

(VOLKSBUND FÜR DAS DEUTSCHTUM IM AUSLAND)

Both the VDA and the DAI were pre-Nazi institutions, striving to maintain the German language, customs, and culture among those of German extraction outside of German borders. When the Nazis assumed power in 1933, both the VDA and the DAI were quickly reorganized and used by the Nazis, although ostensibly retaining their independence as private institutions. Since these agencies maintained open connections between Germany and German racial comrades of foreign citizenship, in the United States as well as elsewhere, it is important to demonstrate the clear tie-up between both these agencies and the Nazi Party. This appears in common ideas and aims, public professions of adherence, official representation at meetings, and appointments in personnel. It may well be maintained that in the totalitarian state there can be no "independent agencies", in the sense of that term used in reference to a democratic country. However, the subsequent discussion presents direct evidence to refute any argument that the VDA and DAI, after 1933, were acting as private non-official agencies.

1. NATURE AND ACTIVITIES

The VDA was founded as the German School League in 1880 in Austria to support endangered German schools in areas of mixed nationality. A similar organization was founded in Germany at the same time. In 1908 the German association assumed the name "League for Germandom in Foreign Countries" (Verein für das Deutschtum im Ausland). The Austrian association became the Austrian branch of the VDA in 1921, later absorbing other Austrian societies doing similar work. One of these societies, the Südmark, absorbed in 1925, had been founded in 1889 with the aim of providing economic support to Germans residing or settling in the mixed-language areas of Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, and Tyrol.

As a result of the ethnic problems arising after the war, the VDA expanded considerably and reorganized its many groups throughout

[57] Ehrich, *op. cit.*, p. 20.

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Germany and Austria. As the pamphlet *Nature and Significance of the VDA* by VDA District Leader Otto Schäfer states: "The sphere of activity became extended to the entire realm of life of the German race." [58] (Document 32–A, *post* p. 424.) The extent of the VDA's activities may be seen from the following list of its departments, taken from the same source: Business Management, Publicity and Organizations, Press and Periodicals, Youth Work, Academic Work, Scholarships, Vacation Trips and Hiking, Physical Training, School Department, Libraries Abroad, Library and Archives, Business Department.[59]

The VDA was particularly active in German public schools, spreading its propaganda among the children and arranging exchanges of correspondence between school children at home and those in foreign countries. Remaining true to its original purpose, the VDA functioned as a sort of liaison between the German school system and German schools in foreign countries, sending Nazi schoolbooks and maintaining special agents to supervise German-language schools abroad. Describing this school work, Schäfer writes:

> "Its major feature lies in the establishment and maintenance of German kindergartens and schools, for the first fourteen years are usually decisive with regard to national allegiance, if an especially strong national will is not at hand. Usually the number of children and the particular conditions of the neighborhood are ascertained and then the solution of the matter is begun. If the German children live in a region of very mixed nationality, then the establishment of a German kindergarten is necessary. In unilingual areas, the establishment of German schools suffices. In most cases attempts are made to induce the authorities to fulfil their obligations; if this does not succeed, the VDA acts and arranges for the building of a schoolhouse, in that it either furnishes a subsidy or itself builds the school . . . In other localities it pays for the teachers, or gives subsidies so that able teachers and pastors may be kept in the endangered areas. If the establishment of a school is impossible, then it attempts to arrange for good private instruction and grants subsidies for this also." [60] (Document 32–A, *post* p. 427.)

An important phase of the VDA's work was the collection of money, put at the disposal of all groups propagating the idea of Germandom abroad. The VDA also engaged actively in pan-German propagandistic work both within Germany and abroad. Aside from pamphlets and manifestoes, the chief vehicles for this were the periodicals published by the VDA, "*Volksdeutsche*", "*Deutsche Welt*", and "*Deutsche Arbeit*". The magazine "*Volksdeutsche*" was sent by the VDA to all parts of the world, including the United States. A calendar entitled

[58] Otto Schäfer, *op. cit.*, p. 28.
[59] *Ibid.*
[60] *Ibid.*, p. 34.

"Germans All Over the World" was also sent, often as a donation by German firms (document 33, *post* p. 431), and propagandistic literature was forwarded to German women's organizations abroad and to address lists furnished by representatives abroad or other interested parties.

2. GOALS

A standard German encyclopedia of 1925 gives the following brief account of the aims of the VDA, which in 1924 with its 1,914 local groups and 1,172 school groups was "the largest organization working for Germandom":

> "The VDA has borne its present name since 1909 and has since then had as its aim not only the maintenance of German schools but also of other cultural institutions of Germandom abroad. Its protective work extends first to the Alp and Sudeten lands, then also to eastern Europe and overseas. It concerns itself with German kindergartens, schools, libraries, and newspapers abroad, with the support of Germans abroad, and especially of Germans from abroad studying in the Reich, and with propagandistic work through the press, through lectures, and its own publications." [61]

In the pamphlet entitled *Nature and Significance of the VDA*, Otto Schäfer, a VDA district leader, wrote in 1932:

> "The *aim* of the VDA's *work, in its broadest sense*, is the fulfilment of the meaning of German racial unity, the permeation of all Germans with the racial idea; *the aim in the more restricted sense* is the successful work of maintaining and protecting Germandom in all countries of the earth, and especially by the cultivation of German cultural forms of activity and expression." [62] (Document 32–A, *post* pp. 425–426.)

Similarly, in an address at the meeting of the VDA in Passau, Whitsuntide 1933, Dr. Hans Steinacher, the Reich's leader of the VDA, stated:

> "The aim of our work is the maintenance of the race outside of our borders. This work cannot be isolated from the life of the Germans within our borders. Borders can separate the life of states but not the life of a people. No matter if the state be forced here and there to give up its claims and to endure borders, which lie on this side of our ethnic borders, the race does not admit any such resignation of race!" [63] (Document 34, *post* p. 434.)

Closing his review of the history of the VDA in the above-mentioned work, Otto Schäfer declared:

[61] Schäfer, *op. cit.*, p. 30.
[62] *Der nationalsozialistische Staat* (ed. by Dr. Walther Gehl: Breslau, 1933), pp. 222–223.

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"Brilliant as this development of the VDA, which encompasses today over 2,000,000 members, and of the whole Germandom movement appears, it is not yet at an end, and ought not to come to an end, until it has reached the entire German race, led the last lost son back into his father's house, has secured the last field fertilized by German sweat and blood." [64] (Document 32–A, *post* p. 425.)

The general background for the VDA's work is indicated by the explanatory note at the beginning of the chapter in *Der nationalsozialistische Staat* containing extracts of Steinacher's address at Passau:

"There has been a Germandom in foreign countries since the 13th century, when German settlers migrated to the European east and southeast, and since the 17th century, when these isolated German settlements were increased and strengthened, and when Germans as farmers and as artisans migrated to North America. The small German Reich of Bismarck left millions of Germans outside of its borders, and the Treaty of Versailles separated from the Reich still further territory inhabited by Germans.

"To the pure state-thinking of the 19th century, Germans in foreign countries, who were not citizens of the Reich, were counted as foreigners. . . . One spoke of German-Russians, instead of Russian-Germans, of German-Bohemians, instead of Sudeten-Germans, etc. The Reich did not concern itself about them, in order to avoid political complications. Merely the VDA, the 'Volksbund (formerly Verein) für das Deutschtum im Ausland', maintained the connection between Germandom in the Reich and Germandom in foreign countries. Its slogan was 'Germans of all countries, unite!' [65]

(Document 34, *post* p. 433.)

The world-wide scope of the VDA's work is also clearly stated by Schäfer:

"We see that the sphere of the VDA's work has become very great, it encompasses the entire planet, and it is by far not able to satisfy the demands made upon it. Also for this reason its aim must remain: the unification of all Germans to one great community of destiny, to a nation." [66] (Document 32–A, *post* p. 426.)

Pamphlets and manifestoes of the VDA leave no doubt that among the "lost sons" are millions of citizens of the United States. The United States is included in the long list of countries containing German racial comrades, in an advertisement appearing February 22, 1934 in the *Berliner Börsen Zeitung*, an authoritative Berlin newspaper, which further states:

"The Germans are a people of 100 millions!"

[64] *Meyer's Lexikon* (Leipzig, 1925), vol. 3, p. 703.

[65] Schäfer, *op. cit.*, p. 29.

[66] *Der nationalsozialistische Staat*, pp. 215–216. Verein was changed to Volksbund in 1933.

[67] Schäfer, *op cit.*, p. 32.

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"The great German racial community is fighting all over the whole planet."

"The VDA is the trustee of the 30 million Germans in foreign countries!"

(Document 35–A, *post* p. 436.)

Concerning the German emigrants to North America, Dr. Schäfer wrote in his 1933 VDA pamphlet:

"Doubtless the Germans would have possessed greater powers of resistance against America's Anglo-Saxonism, if a strong German Government had stood behind them and supported them in their first measures toward the maintenance and cultivation of Germanism, as did the English Government for its emigrants."

"As long as the German Government or a great part of the German people did not stand behind them [the German emigrants], they were powerless. In these years the German nationality lost 20 million persons in the United States, to the great detriment of Germany later." [67]

(Document 32–A, *post* p. 422.)

In a VDA handbill of the same period, seeking new contributing members, under the title "Every Third German Lives in a Foreign Country" 10 to 12 million Germans are listed as residing in the United States. From this handbill are also taken the following statements:

"There are Germans on the whole planet. How many? That's hard to say. As a result of the indifference of the old homeland countless numbers of these have long since forgotten their German language and German ways. Millions have drowned in the melting pot of the United States alone. The number of Germans in the world, however, certainly still amounts to nearly ONE HUNDRED MILLION!

"Think of these animated by a unified will. They would be an enormous energy, a firm foundation for our future, for the German economy, industry, and prestige in the world, *Lebensraum* for our growing generation, basis for our export trade, and therewith *source of employment opportunity for us all*. We want to create this will! Help us!

. . . . . .

"Germans are stretched over the planet like a net. There is no city on earth where Germans have not gotten a foothold as businessmen, scarcely a country in which they do not dwell as settlers. The German name rings out throughout the whole world. We lack only one thing: the will to stand together everywhere, as the others do. If this will is once at hand, the German language will never die out, German characteristics will never slip away, and the German economy will always flourish.

"Germans are still migrating out into the world. Thus it was for centuries, so it still is today. The past has cast away German blood, donated it to foreign peoples. This is all over! We also want finally to be a people like all the peoples of the earth. Lend

[67] *Ibid.*, pp. 7, 8.

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The DAI

(Deutsches Ausland-Institut)

1. NATURE AND SIGNIFICANCE

The Deutsches Ausland-Institut was founded in 1917 with the express purpose of furthering German interests abroad by maintaining contact with all those of German extraction who had migrated or were migrating to foreign countries. Established in Stuttgart because of the heavy emigration originating from southwestern Germany, its scope was not restricted to this section. In fact, the DAI possesses the most comprehensive collection of material concerning all Germandom abroad. Even in pre-Nazi days, however, it was not merely a research institute. Its diverse collections of material were always available in the interest of Germandom abroad, and the DAI, furthermore, not only engaged in propagandistic work through its magazines, press releases, and publication of books but also had departments for advice to emigrants, for employment, legal matters, and information. In the words of a standard German encyclopedia:

> "The DAI represents, especially since the completion in 1925 of its new Home of Germandom [*Haus des Deutschtums*], the appointed central organ for the connection between the homeland and Germandom abroad."[73]

A reliable confidential source, reporting in 1937 on the work of the DAI, furnished the following details concerning the separate branches of the DAI's activities:

> "*Research and Information Service*
>
> "The Institute keeps itself posted concerning the cultural and business activities of Germans in foreign parts and maintains lists of German clubs and firms which are available to reliable persons wishing to enter into correspondence with these groups. In a certain sense it thus helps to further German trade, as it handles inquiries of a business nature and facilitates the making of initial contacts. The Institute, moreover, keeps a card index file of the family history of Germans who have left the Fatherland, bearing in particular upon their 'racial integrity'. Through its correspondents abroad who report directly to it the Institute is informed of the status and progress of 'Germanism' in particular countries. The reaction of the resident population is also recorded in special reports and clippings from the local press. The Institute is thus in a sense the seismograph which registers everything relating to the cause of 'Germanism'.
>
> "*Propaganda Work*
>
> "The Institute is one, but probably the most important, of the agencies which prepare and disseminate propaganda abroad in

[73] *Meyer's Lexikon* (Leipzig, 1925), vol. 3, p. 703.

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> the form of books, pamphlets, periodicals and communiqués. Such material is extensively supplied to public libraries, societies, educational institutions, church organizations, and so forth, provided they are frequented by, or connected in some way with Germans, or persons of German extraction. The Institute can furthermore be relied upon to assist in the preparation and documentation of Congresses held by Germans abroad.
>
> "The Institute also has a hand in organizing the frequent and periodical broadcasts transmitted to foreign Germans by the powerful short-wave stations of the Reich radio system. The Stuttgart broadcasting station is housed in the building of the Institute which furnishes with appropriate material this station as well as others belonging to the German chain. The main object of the programs thus supplied is to keep Germans living in other countries in constant touch with developments in the Reich, to stimulate their interest in the Reich, to develop social, political and economic relationships favorable to Germany, and to convince them of the success of National Socialism. Certain of these broadcasts are also of a cultural nature and include music, theatrical programs, lectures on artistic and historical subjects, as well as also religious discourses.
>
> "*Activity in Emigration Matters*
>
> "The Institute would appear to exercise a certain function in controlling and directing the source of the small amount of emigration (excepting Jews) that is taking place from the Reich. It is understood to possess a department which acts as a sort of labor exchange able to furnish German workmen for firms doing business abroad. This section also apparently advises persons wishing to proceed to foreign countries as settlers, handling their applications and passing upon their requests for foreign exchange. The Institute's activity in this field is apparently based on the theory that while a large wave of emigration is neither possible nor desirable, nevertheless the establishment of the right kind of German settler is advantageous in certain localities, particularly if they can be encouraged to maintain their ties with the Reich and be bound to National Socialism."

2. TIE-UP WITH NAZIS

Evidence demonstrating the close tie-up between the DAI and the Nazi Party is as conclusive as in the case of the VDA. Here, likewise, immediately after the Nazis came into power, an established institution whose general ideals and aims were in conformity with those of the Nazis was promptly *gleichgeschaltet*, i.e. put under direct Nazi control through reorganization. An account of the procedure appeared in the official National Socialist newspaper organ of Württemberg, the Stuttgart *N. S. Kurier* of September 21, 1933:

> "In the course of the revolutionary turn of events, an emergency has ensued, which required the chief supervisory authorities of the Württemberg government to install for the

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maintenance of the work a Committee of Reorganization, to which were transferred all powers. This condition was subsequently recognized as proper by the Assembly. The committee had the task of appointing the new chairman of the Institute, who then himself was to appoint the new Board of Directors, and in agreement with the Government offices work out the new statutes.

"The head of the Committee of Three, Dr. Steinacher, Reich's Führer of the VDA, declared that they have found the right man in Chief Mayor Dr. Strölin, who in view of the situation and his personality appeared most suited to assume this responsible post. The task of the committee had concluded with this."

(Document 39–A, *post* p. 463.)

Dr. Strölin was the Nazi Chief Mayor of Stuttgart, installed by fiat after the advent of the Nazis, although he had been badly beaten in the previous election.

It will be noted in the above citation that after his appointment Dr. Strölin, acting in accordance with the Führer principle, then proceeded to appoint the new Board of Directors. Dr. Eisenmann, director of the provincial parliament, was appointed vice chairman. Also appointed to the Board of Directors were: Senior Government Councilor Dr. Druck from the Ministry of the Interior; Dr. Robert Ernst, leader of the Schutzbund; University Professor Dr. Göring; Senior Director of Education Dr. Krehl; and Dr. Hans Steinacher, Reich's leader of the VDA, among others. The direction of the Institute was entrusted to Professor Csaki,[75] a Transylvanian Saxon who had experience in Germanism activities beyond the borders of Germany.

The first paragraph of a report on the 1933 annual meeting of the DAI, appearing in the authoritative Stuttgart newspaper, *Stuttgarter Neues Tagblatt*, of September 21, 1933, shows the status of the DAI in the new Nazi state:

"This year's annual meeting of the Deutsches Ausland-Institut stood entirely under the sign of the new National Socialist Germany. Only the National Socialist world-view is able to give to the idea of the work for Germandom abroad the great significance which is due it. The racial-German idea has today finally won through. Hence it was to be taken for granted that this year's annual meeting of the Deutsches Ausland-Institut would be participated in by the authoritative Government offices.

[75] Dr. Csaki is still mentioned as the Manager of the Institute in a report dated Nov. 30, 1940. However, the March–April 1942 issue of the DAI periodical *Deutschtum im Ausland* names Dr. Hermann Rüdiger as the Institute's Manager, Dr. Csaki having become in the meantime a member of the Board of Directors. The same issue discloses that the notorious Walter Kappe, well known in the United States, is managing editor of the periodical but on leave for military duty.

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Representatives of the authorities and of pan-German organizations were present in great numbers at the annual meeting and the demonstration." (Document 39–A, *post* p. 460.)

Another article in the same issue of the above newspaper names the following official representatives:

"The Chairman of the Deutsches Ausland-Institut, Chief Mayor Dr. Strölin, opened the celebration. He greeted among those present, in particular, Minister-President and Minister of Religion in Württemberg Mergenthaler as the representative of the supervisory authorities; General Haushofer of Munich as the representative of Rudolf Hess, who has been entrusted by the Führer with the supreme direction of all matters concerning Germans in foreign countries; the Deputy Gauleiter Schmidt as the Württemberg representative of Reich's Propaganda Minister Dr. Goebbels; Herr Ruberg as the representative of the NSDAP's Foreign Policy Office and its Director Alfred Rosenberg. The President of the Danzig Senate, Dr. Rauschning, was greeted with great applause as the representative of the purely German population of Danzig which has been separated from the mother-country against its will. Chief Mayor Dr. Strölin further greeted Privy Councilor Dr. Rödiger as the representative of the Reich's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Reich's Ministry of the Interior, whose presence must be taken as the sign of the Reich's special interest in the work of the Institute. He also greeted Senator Dr. Muth, the tried Führer of the Banat Germandom, and Privy Councilor Professor Dr. von Müller, the President of the German Academy." (Document 39–A, *post* pp. 461–462.)

Privy Councilor Dr. Rödiger, as representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of the Interior at the session, brought greetings from Foreign Minister von Neurath and stated that "both Ministries had always followed with great interest the work of the DAI".[80] (Document 39–A, *post* p. 462.)

Deputy Gauleiter Schmidt, representing Dr. Goebbels, stated, "The local party leadership [*Gauleitung*] is prepared to cooperate through thick and thin with the new officers of the DAI."[81] (Document 39–A, *post* p. 462.)

In the course of the 1933 annual meeting, Dr. Strölin read a telegram which had been sent to Reich's Chancelor Hitler:

"The assembled participants of the annual meeting of the Deutsches Ausland-Institut and the newly formed Board of Directors of the Institute greet *the Führer of the German people.* The entire Germandom abroad, accustomed to struggle in the defense of its cultural goods, reveres in you *the renovator of Germandom* and sees in your leadership *the guaranty for the*

[80] *Stuttgarter Neues Tagblatt*, Sept. 21, 1933.
[81] *Ibid.*

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inseparable unity of Germandom abroad with the mother-country and for the expansion of all racial-German work." [82] (Document 39–A, *post* p. 461.)

Subsequently, Dr. Strölin read the following telegram from Hitler in reply:

"I sincerely thank the assembled participants of the DAI's annual meeting for the pledge of allegiance transmitted to me, and send my most cordial greeting. Signed, Adolf Hitler." [83] (Document 39–A, *post* p. 461.)

The public addresses delivered at that meeting illustrate the complete correspondence between the aims of the DAI and those of the Nazi Party, and contain further the explicit dedication of the DAI to the service of National Socialism. Minister-President Mergenthaler in an address, recorded by the *Stuttgarter Neues Tagblatt*, September 21, 1933, stated:

"The National Socialist movement has had a fructifying effect in all spheres of life. It has also given an entirely new impulse to the work for Germandom. The work for Germandom in foreign countries has thereby received the proper consecration and depth. In the past years of struggle it has often filled us with concern that the work for Germandom in foreign countries could not be carried on in close connection with the Brown fighters of National Socialism. The liberalistic ideology which has been overcome dealt with the formal concept of the citizen. We have gotten rid of that. Today the blood-united German racial-comrade stands in the center. That is the new foundation upon which we must build.

"The work for foreign Germandom must in the future proceed on a racial basis; otherwise it has lost the ground under its feet . . . New paths will be opened up for the work of Germandom by the new conception. The new conception will be a protective wall against the cultural and racial absorption of our comrades in other peoples. National Socialism will give energy to the German racial comrades. We are giving the Germans abroad therewith something enormously great. We also ought not to forget that the Germans abroad in a certain sense stand as guardians around us. Hence I want to impress on the Deutsches Ausland-Institut: Join us therefore in taking care that the spirit of National Socialism also become alive among the German racial-comrades in foreign countries, so that streams of energy may emanate from it!"

(Document 39–A, *post* pp. 462–463.)

The end of Dr. Csaki's annual report, as given in the *N. S. Kurier* of September 21, 1933, included the following:

"After sixteen years of its existence the DAI is concluding the first great span of its development. *The second stage*, upon

[82] *N. S. Kurier*, Sept. 21, 1933.
[83] *Stuttgarter Neues Tagblatt*, Sept. 21, 1933.

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back to Germany to be lodged in one of these *Schulungslager*, or houses or camps, where they are given the necessary intensive grounding in the principles of National Socialism. It appears, moreover, that the younger men most recently admitted to the official foreign services, as well as those below a certain grade who are called back to serve in the Foreign Office, must also attend one of these camps in summer. (Their wives are schooled in special courses given locally in Berlin.) Not only are Party and Government officials serving abroad forced to submit to this training, but it appears that persons capable of exercising a cultural and professional influence abroad, such as ministers, doctors, lawyers, business leaders, and so forth, are encouraged and sometimes required to attend one of these camps, where Nazi doctrine is mixed with rigid military discipline.

"The Ausland-Institut plays a part in determining the curriculum of the *Schulungslager* as well as serving as an intermediary between the Party authorities who run these camps and Germans from abroad who are to attend them. Its facilities of various kinds are also put at the free disposal of persons of German extraction who visit the Reich and who may be counted upon to promote the National Socialist cause in foreign countries."

Most striking evidence of the relation between the DAI and the Nazi Party is furnished by the following passages from the previously mentioned January 1941 circular letter of the Kameradschaft U.S.A.:

"*Collection of Documents Concerning the Movement:*

"The collection of pictures, photos, handbills, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and posters of the German national movement in the United States, which was begun by me in the spring of 1939, will be *continued*.

"The material already at hand is to be built up to a complete collection, which later is to be incorporated into the German Foreign Institute, as well as the Central Archives of the NSDAP in Munich, as an eternal record of our struggle in the United States."
(Document 22–A, *post* p. 278.)

3. VIEWS ON ASSIMILATION EXPRESSED AT DAI MEETING 1937

In accordance with its general nature, the DAI represented one of the foremost German agencies aiming to prevent the assimilation of Germans abroad into the populations of the foreign countries. At the twentieth annual meeting of the DAI held at Stuttgart on August 11–15, 1937, the subject of assimilation was one of the main topics discussed. This meeting was likewise attended by very prominent officials of the German Government, including Foreign Minister Baron von Neurath, Minister of the Interior Frick, and the Governor of Württemberg and his entire Cabinet; officials of the German party; representatives of Alfred Rosenberg's Party Office; and many other prominent persons. Hence the views expressed represented both German party-state officialdom and the DAI.

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According to an entirely reliable confidential report, dated August 21, 1937, the German Minister of the Interior, Frick, in his address at the culminating reception of the meeting—

—"declared that the new Germany has recognized that its attention and devotion to the welfare of the millions of Germans, who have not the fortune to owe political allegiance to Germany, but who are condemned to live abroad, are not merely a matter of natural sympathy and solidarity, but are in a higher degree dictated by the strong political and economic interests of the Reich. He protested strongly against attempts of foreign nations to assimilate German blood and argued that those nations, which realize that they will gain nothing by such endeavors, but which will recognize the aspirations of Germans living in their midst, will gain the friendship of the mighty German Reich, which will then be prepared to make economic concessions to them . . . Herr Frick also said that the principles of National Socialism, which are directing the cultural and political life of the German nation, will constitute in the future a source of strength and of confidence for millions of *Volksdeutsche* (persons of German blood) living in foreign countries."

Komrad Henlein, at that time leader of the German minority element in Czechoslovakia, was a prominent visitor at the assembly, speaking twice, once in public and once in private. Among his principal statements reported at that time were the following:

"Every person of German extraction regards the Third Reich as a source of strength in his struggle to retain his *Volkstum* [meaning in this sense: the community of all persons of German extraction throughout the world]; . . . the happiness and future of the Sudeten Germans, as well as all Germans in the world, are closely linked with those of the Third Reich; . . . solidarity with and loyalty towards Germany is not incompatible with citizenship in another country; . . . and we have the inalienable right to unite ourselves on the basis of blood with our German brethren and to form one great national family . . ."

In view of the later events in Czechoslovakia, and Henlein's activities in particular, one should note especially his bland assurance of the compatibility between loyalty toward Germany and citizenship in another country.

At an earlier gathering of this DAI meeting, the problem of the German element in the United States was the subject of a special discussion, led by Dr. Kroh, a professor at Tübingen University. According to the same report:

"His entreaty that every possible effort should be made by Germans living in the United States, regardless of allegiance, to preserve their mother tongue met with hearty approval by the whole assembly. He even argued that these efforts should be extended to the reestablishment of the German character which had been submerged in the great melting pot and that every

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During the German campaign in Poland, according to all reports, the organized German minority functioned as a "fifth column" with great effectiveness, gathering military information, planting signals for the German air force, and undermining the morale of the Polish Army by diversionist activities.

An account published in July 1941 in *Deutsches Wollen*,[2] the magazine of the party's Foreign Organization, relates the activities of the Nazi Party group in Greece before and after the German Army entered Athens. After the entrance of the Germans, in the words of this group's leader, all the party members performed "auxiliary service with the Army". (Document 41, *post* p. 467.)

The following excerpts are taken from a confidential, reliable account, verified by other sources, of the many-sided German fifth-column activity in the Netherlands before the German invasion. Since these excerpts give a sketch of a whole situation, they are set down in proper sequence without interruption. Valuable details concerning the activities of Bohle's Foreign Organization are given, as well as illuminating remarks on Nazi propaganda and tactics. Of special interest, too, is the exposé of the Nazi Party's methods for maintaining its powerful hold on all Germans, in which are mentioned both the threats and inducements given by the Nazis to Germans living abroad in order to secure their loyalty and service. The tie-up with Netherlands Nazis and the clever use of disaffected Netherlanders, especially from among the unemployed, is also worthy of note.

> "Few countries were more important in the pre-war Nazi strategy than Holland—and for very good reasons . . . For all these reasons it was imperative that the Nazi party members in the Netherlands be rigorously organized, and their knowledge and influence employed for the destruction of the Dutch morale. This was Dr. Butting's job.
>
> "It was not a job at which any man could work openly. The Dutch government was democratic, wherefore it permitted the existence of a Dutch National-Socialist Party, and that party even had a handful of representatives in the Dutch Parliament. But Germans resident in Holland were forbidden by Dutch law to organize politically. This being so, both their organization and their leader had to work under cover. The cover for the Nazi party organization was an outwardly social and cultural body that went by the innocent name of *Reichsdeutsche Gemeinschaft*, the German Citizens' Association. Every member of this association was a member of the Nazi Party of Germany. The president of the association was Dr. Butting,—and the cover furnished Dr. Butting was an appointment as attaché of the German legation at The Hague.
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> . . . . . .

[2] *Deutsches Wollen* (magazine of the Foreign Organization of the NSDAP: Berlin, July 1941), pp. 1ff.

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3.

Rundbrief an alle Kameraden

Liebe Kameraden!

Als wir im Jahre 1938 daran gingen, die Idee Sepp Schusters, der schon früher in München einen stattlichen Kreis einstiger Mitkämpfer aus dem Bund "Freunde des Neuen Deutschlands" um sich geschart hatte, auf das Reichsgebiet zu erweitern und die "Kameradschaft USA." zu gründen, bewogen uns dazu drei Gesichtspunkte :

einmal wollten wir die Kameradschaft, die uns drüben alle Hindernisse und Schwierigkeiten bewältigen liess und in der wir unser höchstes Erlebnis fanden, hier im Vaterlande fortsetzen, uns gegenseitig helfen, im Austausch unserer Erinnerungen an die Kampfzeit in USA. uns Kraft und Mut für den Alltag holen,

zum anderen aber wollten wir durch Bildung dieser Kameradschaft uns selbst und unsere drüben gesammelten Erfahrungen unserem Vaterland zur Verfügung stellen

und schliesslich erhofften wir, irgendwie unseren kämpfenden Brüdern drüben einen moralischen Rückhalt zu geben und sei es nur durch die Tatsache, dass wir, die Rückgewanderten, in Treue jener tapferen Kämpfer gedachten, mit denen wir Jahre hindurch in einer Front gestanden hatten.

So wurden in Stuttgart, Berlin, Hamburg, Hannover Kameradschaften gegründet und kurz vor Kriegsbeginn konnte durch Entgegenkommen des Deutschen Ausland-Instituts und der Stadt Stuttgart das erste Reichstreffen der Kameradschaft USA. verbunden mit der Eröffnung der Ausstellung "Amerikadeutschtum im Kampf" abgehalten werden, ein unvergessliches Erlebnis für alle Teilnehmer!

Der Krieg machte durch unsere weiteren Zukunftspläne einen dicken Strich, auch hörte die weitere Rückwanderung so gut wie auf. Ein grosser Teil unserer Kameraden eilte zu den Fahnen, einzelne Kameradschaftsgruppen verwaisten völlig. Dazu kam, dass Fritz Gissibl im Osten, in Litzmannstadt, eingesetzt wurde, Sepp Schuster nach Berlin ging, Ernst Vennekohl und ich schon vom ersten Kriegstage an den Schreibtisch mit der Waffe vertauschten.

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4.

So ist denn heute unsere Anschriftenliste zum Teil veraltet, viele Kameraden sind verzogen, ohne uns ihre neue Anschrift hinterlassen zu haben. Eine Reihe von Briefen, die ich in letzter Zeit in dem Bemühen schrieb, unsere Kameradschaft neu zu beleben, blieb ohne Antwort.

Trotzdem aber lebt die Kameradschaft USA., das spürt man aus der Arbeit unserer Berliner Gruppe, die inzwischen die weitaus grösste geworden ist, das wissen auch die im Felde stehenden Kameraden, die auch zum letzten Weihnachtsfest mit einem Päckchen bedacht wurden, das klingt auch aus allen Feldpostbriefen und das hört man aus den oft ungeduldigen Anfragen, was denn eigentlich die Kameradschaft mache.

Es kommt also nur darauf an, den ersten Anstoss zur Wiederaufnahme unserer Tätigkeit zu geben.

Das soll dieser erste Rundbrief besorgen.

Walter Kappe

(Walter Kappe)

- -

Diesem Rundbrief beigefügt ist ein als streng vertraulich zu betrachtender Bericht über die Lage des Deutschtums in USA., der die Kameraden auf dem Laufenden halten soll.

D.O.

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6.

Anordnungen der Kameradschaftsleitung:

Sitz der Kameradschaftsleitung ist Stuttgart,

Anschrift: Kameradschaft USA.
Stuttgart-S,
Danziger Freiheit 17.

Mitgliedsbeitrag:

Von jedem Mitglied der Kameradschaft USA. wird ein Jahresbeitrag in Höhe von RM 1.-- erhoben. Die Beiträge sind unter Verwendung der beliegenden Zahlkarte auf das Postscheckkonto 142 64 Stuttgart einzuzahlen.

Diese Beitragserhebung erfolgt ausschliesslich aus dem Grunde, um festzustellen, wer Interesse an der Kameradschaft hat und wer nicht. Wem die Zahlung von RM 1.-- zuviel ist, der möge ruhig fernbleiben.

Das Geld wird für besondere Fälle und Deckung besonderer Ausgaben (z.B. Vorbereitung einer Tagung usw.) zur Verfügung gehalten.

Es wird verwaltet vom Sekretär der Kameradschaft USA., Kamerad J.K.Leibl (Chikago).

Sammlung von Dokumenten aus der Bewegung:

Die von mir im Frühjahr 1939 eingeleitete Sammlung von Bildern, Fotos, Flugblättern, Broschüren, Zeitungsberichten und Plakaten aus der völkischen Bewegung in USA. wird fortgesetzt.

Mit dem bereits vorhandenen Material soll es zu einer lückenlosen Sammlung ausgestaltet werden, die später einmal dem Deutschen Ausland-Institut sowie dem Zentralarchiv der NSDAP. in München als ewiges Dokument unseres Kampfes in USA. einverleibt werden soll.

Die Originalstücke werden nach Bearbeitung an jeden Kameraden zurückgegeben werden, sodass eine Einbusse an persönlichen Andenken nicht erfolgt. Nur bitte ich, Geduld zu haben.

Sammlung von Filmen der Bewegung:

Aus dem gleichen Grunde wollen sich bitte alle Kameraden melden, die im Besitz von Filmen aus der Bewegung sind. Ich bin in der Lage, aus solchen Filmen einen guten Gesamtfilm in mehreren Kopien kostenlos herstellen zu lassen.

Die Filme brauchen vorläufig noch nicht eingesandt zu werden, es genügt mir vorerst Meldung und Beschreibung sowie ungefähre Länge der Filme.

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[p. 2] TO THE
COMRADESHIP USA.

The year 1939 with its great political and military events has partially dissolved the close bands which bound the Comradeship together. Many left their former circles of activity to become soldiers or have been transferred in the meantime to one of the new territories. A meeting in Stuttgart provided the incentive to resume contact by the Central Office with all comrades. To this end Party Member *Walter Kappe*, who meanwhile has returned from the Army, will take over the *leadership of the Comradeship* and will renew the bonds through this circular letter. I beg each individual to resume active participation in the work of his respective group for I am convinced that our work in the future will be of significance.

In old loyalty

Heil Hitler!
(Signed) FRITZ GISSIBL

I have accepted the leadership of the Comradeship USA after a discussion with Fritz Gissibl and Sepp Schuster, who meanwhile has been called up for military service, on the ground that a Central Office of the Comradeship USA must also exist in time of war. This circular letter from Stuttgart is to assist in renewing contact with all comrades, men and women. I depend upon the cooperation of everyone.

Heil Hitler!
(Signed) WALTER KAPPE

[p. 3] CIRCULAR LETTER TO ALL COMRADES

Dear Comrades!

When in 1938 we undertook the task of extending throughout the Reich the idea of Sepp Schuster, who earlier had gathered about him in Munich a numerous circle of former fighters from the Bund "Friends of the New Germany", and of establishing the "Comradeship USA", we were moved by three reasons:

first, we wished to continue here in the fatherland the comradeship which enabled us to overcome all obstacles and difficulties over there [in the United States], to help each other and, by the exchange of our experiences during the period of struggle in the United States, to gather strength and courage for our daily work,

second, we wished also through the establishment of this Comradeship to place at the disposal of our fatherland ourselves and the experience which we gained over there,

and, finally, we hoped in some manner to give our fighting brothers over there moral support, even if only through the fact that we, who had returned, loyally remembered the brave fighters at whose side we stood through the years at the front.

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Accordingly, Comradeship groups were established in Stuttgart, Berlin, Hamburg, and Hanover; and shortly before the beginning of the war it was possible, through the cooperation of the German Foreign Institute and the city of Stuttgart, to hold the first national meeting of the Comradeship USA in conjunction with the opening of the exposition "American Germanism in Combat", an unforgettable experience for all who participated!

The war drew a heavy line through our extensive plans for the future, and further repatriation practically stopped. The greater part of our comrades hastened to the flag, some Comradeship groups were completely orphaned. Furthermore, Fritz Gissibl was transferred to the east to Litzmannstadt [Lodz, Poland], Sepp Schuster went to Berlin, and, in the first days of the war, Ernst Vennekohl and I exchanged the desk for weapons.

[p. 4] Consequently, at present our list of addresses is partly out of date. Many comrades have moved without furnishing us with their new addresses. A number of letters which I have written recently in an effort to revive our Comradeship remain unanswered.

Nevertheless, the Comradeship USA still lives. That is evident from the work of our Berlin group, which, in the meantime, has become by far the largest. That is also known to the comrades in the field who were remembered last Christmas with a package. That is apparent in all letters from the front and is also heard in the often impatient inquiries as to what the Comradeship is actually doing.

It is, therefore, only necessary to give the first stimulus to the resumption of our activity. That is to be provided by this first circular letter.

WALTER KAPPE

Attached to this letter is a report concerning the position of Germandom in the United States, which is to be considered as strictly confidential and which is to keep the comrades *au courant*.

W. K.

[p. 5] EBERHARD VON NASSE HAS FALLEN

A few days before the signature of the Armistice with France, there fell, during an attack on the Maginot Line,

Corporal Eberhard von Nasse,

the first National Youth Leader of the Bund "Friends of the New Germany" and for many years local group leader in Buffalo.

Eberhard von Nasse was one of the oldest front fighters in the German racial movement in the United States and was the founder of the American "German Youth Movement" in the twenties.

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For American Germandom he was not only the model of a National Socialist Führer but also a comrade who was always ready for service. His service for Führer and people was sealed by death at the front.

Eberhard von Nasse will live on in our ranks!

[p. 6] INSTRUCTIONS OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THE COMRADESHIP:

The headquarters of the Comradeship leadership is at Stuttgart,

Address: Kameradschaft USA.
Stuttgart-S,
Danziger Freiheit 17.

Membership Fees:

An annual contribution in the amount of one mark is collected from every member of the Comradeship USA. The fees should be sent to Postal Account 142 64 at Stuttgart by using the attached payment card.

This collection of fees is being made exclusively for the purpose of determining who has interest in the Comradeship and who does not. Anyone for whom the payment of one mark is too much may quietly remain outside.

The funds will be used for special cases and to cover special expenditures (for example, the preparation of a conference, etc.)

They will be administered by the secretary of the Comradeship USA, Comrade *J. K. Leibl* (Chicago).

Collection of Documents Concerning the Movement:

The collection of pictures, photos, handbills, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and posters of the German national movement in the United States, which was begun by me in the spring of 1939, will be *continued.*

The material already at hand is to be built up to a complete collection, which later is to be incorporated into the German Foreign Institute, as well as the Central Archives of the NSDAP in Munich, as an eternal record of our struggle in the United States.

The original documents will be returned to each comrade after recording, so that no sacrifice of personal souvenirs will occur. I only ask you to have patience.

Collection of Films of the Movement:

For the same reasons we wish to hear from all comrades who are in possession of films concerning the movement. I am in a position to have a *good complete film in several copies* prepared from such films.

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we feel ourselves the appointed *protectors of these values in foreign Germanism.* A state which is built on the iron laws of blood and race, like the National Socialist Reich, cannot do other than accept its own blood always and everywhere even in the remotest corner of the earth. The Foreign Organization is, therefore, the gathering place for every single racial comrade of the Reich, who—otherwise dependent on himself alone—would be lost to the Reich. The Foreign Organization wishes to preserve for the Reich every German wherever he may be in the world, be he rich or poor, young or old, in the knowledge that no sin is greater than that of *voluntarily* abandoning German blood.

Gauleiter Bohle referred to the situation of Germanism abroad before the Nazi seizure of power, which manifested the same disunity as had the Germans in the Reich itself and which, because of the collapse of the old fatherland, was little respected abroad; and he emphasized that, only a few years before the seizure of power, an immense change began through the formation of local groups of the NSDAP, which at that time was still unknown or unmentioned abroad. Everywhere abroad there were a few enthusiastic men and women who believed in Adolf Hitler regardless of all slander and who began the struggle to win their German compatriots for the ideology of the new movement.

Today, barely four years after the seizure of power, we can proudly and joyfully declare that our party comrades abroad have conquered foreign Germanism—conquered it for the National Socialist idea—conquered it without any external pressure—conquered it *through the strength of persuasion—conquered it through the deeds of the Führer in the Reich!* The Führer had to come in order to hammer into all of us the fact that the German cannot choose and may not choose whether or not he will be German but that he was sent into this world by God as a German and that God thereby had laid upon him as a German duties of which he cannot divest himself without committing treason to Providence. *Therefore, we believe and we know that the German everywhere is a German*—whether he lives in the Reich or in Japan, in France or in China, or anywhere else in the world. *Not countries or continents, not climate or environment but blood and race determine the world of ideas of the German.*

The wonderful thing about our new Reich is that this Reich will not voluntarily release a single one of its citizens from his holy duties to his people.

Therefore, it depends on each German citizen to think German, to act German, and to remain German; wherever he may be, he will know that Germany stands beside him and that his new Germany is determined to protect every single one of its citizens outside of its boundaries. When the Bolshevik terror broke out in Spain and threatened

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So wenig wie wir daran denken, uns über die allgemein anerkannten Regeln des Fremdenrechts hinwegzusetzen, ebensowenig werden wir zulassen, daß Auslandsdeutsche wegen ihrer nationalsozialistischen Einstellung von fremden Regierungen unter eine Art von Ausnahmerecht gestellt werden.

„Wenn Sie, meine lieben Auslandsdeutschen, jetzt in das Land Ihres Aufenthalts zurückkehren, werden Sie, des bin ich sicher, die in Deutschland und vor allem hier in Stuttgart empfangenen Eindrücke sowohl den anderen Volksgenossen dort draußen, als auch den Ihnen zugänglichen Ausländern übermitteln. Seien Sie dort draußen Zeugen für das große Geschehen in Deutschland, für den Neuaufbau des Reichs, für seine Wiedererstarkung und zugleich für seinen unverbrüchlichen Friedenswillen.

„Bleiben Sie immer der Ehre bewußt, Mitglied der deutschen Volksgemeinschaft, und jeder Einzelne von Ihnen ihr Repräsentant in der Fremde zu sein. Seien Sie einig unter sich, und erweisen Sie Ihrem Gastland dieselbe Achtung, die wir selbst überall für Deutschland fordern. Dann werden Sie wichtige und wertvolle Mitarbeit leisten an dem Werke unseres Führers Adolf Hitler und an unserem unter ihm geeinten geliebten deutschen Vaterland."

Reichsaußenminister von Neurath, der bereits während seiner Rede wiederholt lebhaften Beifall und weiteste Zustimmung gefunden hatte, wurde zum Schluß mit stürmischen Heilrufen gefeiert.

Fanfaren der Hitler-Jugend leiteten über zu der Rede des Stellvertreters des Führers,

Rudolf Heß,

der bei seinem Erscheinen auf der Rednertribüne mit minutenlangen, stürmischen Heilrufen empfangen wurde.

Rudolf Heß führte aus:

„Meine deutschen Volksgenossen und Volksgenossinnen! Deutsche Seefahrer!

„Ihr steht vor mir als Ausschnitt der großen deutschen Volksgemeinschaft — der Volksgemeinschaft, die sich über die Grenzen unseres Reiches hinaus erstreckt, denn der Nationalsozialismus hat nicht nur im Inlande über alle Klassen und Stände hinweg eine Volksgemeinschaft geschaffen, wie sie vordem unbekannt war, sondern er hat einbezogen die deutschen Volksgenossen im Auslande. Er hat sie zu bewußten und stolzen Gliedern dieser Volksgemeinschaft gemacht! Und der Inlandsdeutsche rechnet die Deutschen draußen heute selbstverständlich zu sich gehörig, obwohl noch wenige Jahre vordem die große Masse unseres Volkes kaum etwas von ihnen wußte.

„Es gab einst eine Zeit, da der Auslandsdeutsche in der Heimat auf ein geradezu verletzendes Unverständnis stieß ob der Mission, die er in der Fremde erfüllt. Mit so vielen Wandlungen ist auch hier eine Wandlung eingetreten: die alte Heimat, die zum neuen Deutschland geworden ist, hat Euch, meine auslandsdeutschen Volksgenossen, empfangen mit offenen Armen, mit offenen Herzen. Sie heißt Euch willkommen als Angehörige nicht nur der deutschen Volksgemeinschaft, sondern der großen Schicksalsgemeinschaft. Denn gemeinsam ist unser Schicksal. Mit Deutschlands Niedergang sank auch Euer Stern. Da Deutschland der Verachtung anheimfiel, schwand auch Euer Ansehen. Jetzt aber, da das neue Deutschland stolz und stark vor der Welt steht, jetzt könnt auch Ihr wieder Euer Haupt hoch tragen, wenn Ihr Euch zu Deutschland bekennt. Deutschlands Ehre ist auch Eure Ehre!

„Mit gleichem Selbstbewußtsein dürft Ihr Euch hier in der Heimat als Auslandsdeutsche bekennen. Wo Ihr auch hinkommt, überall weiß man in diesem neuen Deutschland, daß unter denen, die einst hinausgingen, die besten waren. Sie gingen hinaus in eine ungewisse Fremde, ein ungewisses Schicksal auf sich zu nehmen, weil der Raum zu eng war in der Heimat. Und draußen mußten sie sich wiederum in schwerem Daseinskampf durchringen. Viele gingen unter, viele aber siegten. Sie und ihre Nachkommen wurden bewußt oder unbewußt zur Stütze des Deutschtums, rangen der Welt Anerkennung für sich und damit für Deutschland ab. Manche machten ihr Glück, brachten es zu Ansehen und Wohlhabenheit.

„Bis dann die furchtbare Katastrophe des Weltkrieges mit ihren Folgen über Deutschland kam; bis unzählige von ihnen verloren, was sie so schwer erkämpften, und zugleich verloren die Achtung der anderen. Es war damals bitter schwer, Deutscher zu sein und sich Deutscher zu nennen! Wir wissen, daß die meisten von Euch, meine Auslandsdeutschen, trotzdem zu Deutschland hielten oder gerade deshalb zu Deutschland hielten, weil Deutschland arm und verachtet war. Und das danken wir diesen Auslandsdeutschen, daß sie „im Unglück erst recht" zu Deutschland standen, trotz aller Schmähungen, oft trotz Verfolgungen und Entrechtungen!

„Ich weiß, was auch Ihr deutschen Seefahrer in den Zeiten der Schmach gelitten, wenn Ihr als Sendboten der Heimat in der Fremde weiltet.

„Wie leicht ist es demgegenüber heute, sich Deutscher zu nennen! Mögen sie uns da und dort noch hassen — wenn der Haß nur gepaart ist mit Achtung!

„Schlimmer als Haß ist Mitleid, denn das Schlimmste, was sie uns einst draußen in der Welt entgegenbringen konnten, war das Mitleid. Heute brauchen sie kein Mitleid mehr mit uns zu haben: das Mitleid ist in weiten Teilen dieser gleichen Welt gewandelt in Neid und Bewunderung für den Führer, für sein Deutschland und seine Leistungen!

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„Eines wissen heute alle: das Hoffen auf den Zusammenbruch des nationalsozialistischen Regiments war vergeblich. Einst trösteten sich unsere Gegner damit: Laßt nur einige Monate, schlimmsten Falls Jahre vergehen, dann haben sie sich abgewirtschaftet! Dann ist es vorbei mit aller Hitlerei! Heute weiß die Welt: Das nationalsozialistische Deutschland steht und wird stehen!

„Nach der nationalsozialistischen Revolution wagten sich nur wenige Fremde in unser Land, in dieses Land, das angeblich völlig der Barbarei verfallen, in dem niemand mehr seines Lebens sicher sein sollte, in dem der Hunger wüten sollte. Und die Freunde dieser Waghalse, die zu uns kamen, waren nur erstaunt, daß diese überhaupt zurückkehrten. Und heute: die Besucher aus anderen Nationen kommen gern in unser nationalsozialistisches Deutschland. Für viele gilt es bereits als das sicherste Land der Erde — und zugleich als eines der schönsten Länder der Erde.

„So, wie die Lügen über den kommenden Zusammenbruch, die Lügen über die Barbarei in Deutschland, sich als Lügen herausstellten, so werden sich auch die anderen Lügen über das nationalsozialistische Deutschland als Lügen entblößen. So wird auch einst die Verdächtigung, Deutschland habe kriegerische Absichten, als Lüge erkannt werden.

„Will man in der Welt wirklich behaupten, daß allein der Besitz von Kanonen, Tanks, Flugzeugen gleichbedeutend mit kriegerischen Absichten ist? Wenn das so wäre, dann müßte die ganze übrige Welt ständig mit kriegerischen Absichten erfüllt sein. Denn die übrige Welt rüstete unausgesetzt, als Deutschland gutgläubig seine Waffen ablieferte oder zerstörte. Sicher ist: Trotz unserer Abrüstung kam der ewige Friede nicht! So wenig wie die anderen trotz aller Versprechungen selbst abrüsteten! Welcher Fairdenkende will uns verübeln, daß wir auf alle Fälle — der Sicherheit halber — uns auch wieder eine Rüstung zu unserem Schutz zugelegt haben?

„Und diese Rüstung dient auch der Sicherheit der Auslandsdeutschen. Ich weiß, was es für einsame Volksgenossen in der Fremde bedeutet, wenn Unruhen ihr Leben und ihre Habe bedrohen, und ein Kriegsschiff erscheint unter Deutschlands Flagge, um zu dokumentieren: hinter unserem Protest steht nötigenfalls unsere Macht.

„Als die Bomben internationaler Friedensstörer auf unser Panzerschiff „Deutschland" fielen, hat der Führer der Welt gezeigt: Die Beleidigung des Symbols unserer Macht, die Beleidigung der Flagge und das Blut deutscher Seeleute werden gesühnt. Seit Almeria weiß die Welt, daß sie endgültig ein neues Deutschland vor sich hat! Und Ihr, meine Auslandsdeutschen, werdet die Wirkung verspürt haben und weiterhin verspüren. Die Welt hat zur Kenntnis genommen: als Parias lassen wir uns nicht wieder behandeln.

„Unter dem starken Schutz der Heimat festigt sich das Auslandsdeutschtum immer mehr. Unter der Einwirkung der Heimat schließt es sich immer mehr zusammen.

„Unter der Führung der Auslands-Organisation wird auch das Auslandsdeutschtum immer mehr von nationalsozialistischem Geist erfüllt. Die Auslands-Organisation der NSDAP. hat die noch lange nach der Machtübernahme in sich zersplitterten, in Klassengegensätzen auseinanderklaffenden Deutschen draußen zusammengeführt und sie verbunden mit dem Reiche Adolf Hitlers. Die Betreuung des Auslandsdeutschtums im nationalsozialistischen Geist erhält eine Unzahl von Deutschen der Nation, die sonst als Kulturdünger in anderen Nationen aufgingen.

„Von Zeit zu Zeit erfreut sich die Auslands-Organisation der NSDAP. der besonders liebevollen Aufmerksamkeit freyder Politiker. Nämlich der Politiker, die es gerade einmal wieder für zweckmäßig halten, wegen irgendwelcher politischer Geschäfte das Schreckgespinst der „deutschen Gefahr" an die Wand der internationalen Oeffentlichkeit zu malen. Und wie sie malen! Unser jüngster Gau der NSDAP. wird zu einer finsteren, geheimnisvollen Organisation.

„Ihr, meine Parteigenossen draußen, werdet zu Spinnen eines gewaltigen Spionagenetzes. Es ist geradezu gruselig zu hören, wie Ihr das Gift tödlicher Lehren in fremde Völker tragt und große Weltreiche von ihnen bedroht. Und es ist erschütternd zu hören, wie Ihr Armen Euch dauernd in den Zentralen der NSDAP. — morgens, mittags, abends — melden müßt, um Rechenschaft abzulegen, ich möchte fast sagen, ob Ihr gut oder schlecht geträumt habt vom Nationalsozialismus. Ganz zu schweigen von all den anderen geheimnisvollen Dingen, von denen wir selbst auch nichts wissen, die aber diese Politiker wissen, ohne sie bisher preisgegeben zu haben. Doch das wird alles noch kommen, verlaßt Euch darauf!

„Im Ernst: Scheint es auch lächerlich, so hat es doch Methode. Durch die ewig wiederholten Lügen — die schließlich dann auch manch ein ehrlich um den Frieden besorgter Mann nachspricht — soll immer von neuem das Gift des Mißtrauens zwischen die anderen Nationen und uns geträufelt werden. Die Drahtzieher wollen um den Preis jeder Lüge verhindern, daß das Vertrauen zum neuen Deutschland auch weiterhin wächst, wie es zu ihrem Leidwesen in den letzten Jahren gewachsen ist.

(Schluß auf Nr. 1160)

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Seid Vermittler der Wahrheit!

Vorwürfe und Kritik, mögen sie noch so gehässig sein, lassen uns völlig kalt. Wir tun, was wir für richtig halten. Wir tun, was unserem Volke nützt, gleichgültig, was man draußen darüber denkt oder sagt.

Wir wissen aus Erfahrung, daß solche Kritik meist gar nicht einer besseren Ueberzeugung oder gar dem Wunsche entspricht, uns helfend zu beraten, sondern es ist lediglich die Absicht, uns in der Weltmeinung Schaden zuzufügen, koste es, was es wolle. Es ist die Absicht, kein Verständnis für das Tun und Lassen der sogenannten autoritären Staaten aufkommen zu lassen und dadurch die Verständigung zwischen den Völkern zu erschweren. Weil wir dies wissen, weil wir den Hintergrund der Kritik an uns durchschauen, deshalb zeigen wir auf die Beweise der Unwahrhaftigkeit der Kritiker.

Erfreulicherweise kommen alljährlich in immer wachsender Zahl Angehörige fremder Staaten in unser Land, Fremde, die mit eigenen Augen sehen wollen, wie es bei uns in Wirklichkeit aussieht und welches nun tatsächlich die Ergebnisse der nationalsozialistischen Herrschaft sind. Ueber diese Besucher freuen wir uns ehrlich. Wir freuen uns, weil wir wissen, daß, gleich welcher politischen Anschauung sie angehören und gleich welchem Stand und welcher Klasse sie sich zurechnen, sie bald anerkennen müssen, welche Leistungen im Reich Adolf Hitlers vollbracht wurden und vollbracht werden. Wir wissen, daß alle, die guten Willens sind, Deutschland einst wieder verlassen als Träger des Verstehens und als Träger der Verständigung zwischen uns und dem Lande, dem sie angehören.

Auch ihr, meine auslandsdeutschen Volksgenossen", so fuhr der Stellvertreter des Führers mit besonderer Betonung fort, „geht wieder zurück in eure Gastländer als Vermittler der Wahrheit über eure große Heimat, über das neue Deutschland. Wir wissen, daß ihr draußen an eurem Teil der Wahrheit zum Siege verhelfen werdet.

Weihe neuer Fahnen

Als Hinnzeichen des Nationalsozialismus und als Symbole der Verpflichtung auf den Mann, der ihn schuf, werden auch in diesem Jahre wieder 24 Hakenkreuzfahnen hier von Stuttgart aus mit euch hinausgehen in alle Welt. Ihr tragt diese Fahnen der nationalsozialistischen Gemeinschaft mit euch hinaus, nicht zum Sturmangriff auf fremde Ueberzeugungen und Weltanschauungen! Ihr nehmt sie mit euch als eure eigensten, nur für euch allein bestimmten friedlichen Symbole eurer Heimat.

Es sollen die Fahnen, die wir jetzt weihen, euch ein Stück Heimat in der Fremde sein. Sie sollen wehen als Mittelpunkt des Deutschtums, und sie sollen euch mahnen und euch die Kraft geben, euer Leben dem Gedanken unterzuordnen: Alles für Deutschland!"

Es beginnt nun die feierliche Weihe der neuen Fahnen. Das Kommando: „Stillgestanden! Fahnen hoch!" schallt über die Arena. Rudolf Heß nimmt die Weihe mit folgenden Worten vor:

„Euch Symbole des neuen Glaubens und des neuen Reiches, die ihr in Niederländisch-Indien, in Südafrika, in Rumänien, in Polen, in den Niederlanden, in der Schweiz, in Großbritannien und im Sudetenland wehen werdet, die ihr wehen werdet auf deutschen Schiffen, ich weihe euch: Fahnen des Nationalsozialismus, weht für die Ehre Deutschlands und seines Führers. Weht nun in der fernen Welt als Symbol des großen Reiches, das Adolf Hitler schuf! Fahnen, ihr seid geweiht!"

Rudolf Heß gedenkt zum Abschluß seiner Rede der Stuttgarter Tage des vergangenen Jahres, als hier in Stuttgart deutsche Männer und Frauen, deutsche Buben und Mädel in ihren heimischen Trachten erschienen waren, glühend beseelt vom großdeutschen Gedanken, leidenschaftlich bewegt vom Nationalsozialismus, aber doch eben äußerlich Volksdeutsche, Deutsche fremden Staatsangehörigkeit.

„Heute", so fuhr Rudolf Heß fort, „stehen sie auch äußerlich in unseren Reihen. Sie werden stolz und glücklich in den Formationen der nationalsozialistischen Bewegung an ihrem Führer in Nürnberg vorbeimarschieren — diesmal als Reichsdeutsche! Und wir alle sind von Herzen glücklich, wenn wir sie sehen. Sie haben einen langen und zähen Kampf gekämpft, einen Kampf mit einem hinterhältigen und verlogenen Gegner. Sie haben sich ihre Heimat erkämpft, und sie haben sich zu der Liebe, die ihnen Deutschland immer entgegengebracht, die stolze Anerkennung des ganzen Volkes errungen."

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Der Kampf der Sudetendeutschen

Rudolf Heß gedenkt hier des ähnlichen Ringens in einer anderen deutschen Volksgruppe um ihr nationales Lebensrecht: „Mit tiefster Anteilnahme für ihre Leiden sieht das deutsche Volk auf die deutschen Volksgenossen in der Tschecho-Slowakei. Niemand auf der Welt, der sein eigenes Volk liebt und stolz auf sein Volk ist, wird es uns verdenken, wenn wir auch hier von dieser Stelle aus unsere Gedanken zu den Sudetendeutschen wenden, wenn wir ihnen sagen, daß wir voller Bewunderung sehen, wie sie trotz schlimmster Schikane, trotz Terror und Mord eiserne Disziplin wahren. Hätte es überhaupt eines Beweises bedurft, daß beste deutsche Tugenden sich im Sudetendeutschtum verkörpern, dann ist es diese eiserne Disziplin und die unerschütterliche Ruhe, die aus dem Gefühl des eigenen Rechts kommt. Ihr wißt es im Sudetenland: Wir sind mit heißem Herzen bei euch. (Mit jubelnder Begeisterung unterstreichen die Massen diesen Gruß des Stellvertreters des Führers an die Sudetendeutschen). **Bei euch liegt das Recht von 3½ Millionen deutscher Menschen, das Recht von Millionen Angehörigen eines großen Volkes, ihr Leben so zu führen und so zu gestalten, wie es die Zugehörigkeit zu diesem Kulturvolk gebietet."**

Der Stellvertreter des Führers schließt seine Rede mit den Worten: „Nach den Stunden des Feierns hier führen uns unsere Lebenswege wieder auseinander. Wir kehren zurück an jene Plätze, auf denen wir arbeiten dürfen für unser Volk, unser Reich und unseren Führer. So wie wir hier sichtbar eine geschlossene Einheit gebildet haben, so bleiben wir auch im Alltag eine unzertrennbare Gemeinschaft, eine Gemeinschaft deutscher Herzen und des deutschen Willens. **Unser politischer Glaube auf dieser Welt ist der Glaube an die Sendung des Führers für Deutschland. In diesem Glauben grüßen wir den Mann, der Deutschlands Schicksal ist. Adolf Hitler Sieg-Heil!"**

Nicht endenwollender Jubel dankte dem Stellvertreter des Führers als er seine von großer Liebe zum gesamten Deutschtum im Auslande zeugende Rede beendete. Mächtig hallen das Sieg-Heil auf den Führer und die Nationalhymnen empor. Mit dem Fahnenausmarsch und dem Vorbeimarsch der Ehrenkompanie vor dem Stellvertreter des Führers schloß die denkwürdige Großkundgebung.

Am Abend nahmen die zahlreichen Ehrengäste an einer Festaufführung des „Rosenkavalier" im Großen Hause der Württembergischen Staatstheater teil, das aus diesem Anlaß ein besonders festliches Gewand angelegt hatte.

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Verein für das Deutschtum im Ausland
Berlin W 30, Martin-Luther-Straße 97

Der Reichsinnenminister für die V. D. A.-Arbeit!

Abschrift II B 7855/27. 4. Berlin, den 24. Februar 1933.
Der Reichsminister des Innern.
H B 7855/4. 2.

An die Landesregierungen.

Betrifft: Verein für das Deutschtum im Ausland,
Deutscher Schulverein e. V.

Bei der Pflege der nationalen Aufgaben hat mein Ministerium in besonderem Maße den Schutz und die Förderung des Grenz- und Auslanddeutschtums ausgeübt. Eine größere Zahl mit Sonderaufgaben auf diesem Gebiete betrauter Einrichtungen wird aus mir zur Verfügung stehenden Mitteln so weit möglich unterstützt. Unter allen diesen nimmt der **Verein für das Deutschtum im Ausland, Deutscher Schulverein e. V., Berlin, eine bevorzugte Stellung ein.** Seiner durch ein halbes Jahrhundert hindurchgeführten Arbeit ist die Erhaltung so mancher deutschen Schule, Kirche, Zeitung oder sonstigen Einrichtung in den Volkssiedlungen deutscher Abstimmung im Ausland zu verdanken. Ohne die Erhaltung dieser Einrichtungen wären große deutsche Volksgruppen vor allem unter dem Druck der Nachkriegszeit als Kulturdünger fremden Volkstums untergegangen. Leider war in den vergangenen Jahren eine gewisse Zurückhaltung weiter Volkskreise gegenüber der Werbearbeit des genannten Volksvereins festzustellen und auch behördliche Einengungen seiner Tätigkeit sind nicht unterblieben. Es erscheint mir jedoch als dringende Pflicht des Reichs und der Länder, nicht nur solche Hemmungen zu beseitigen, sondern dem Verein für das Deutschtum im Ausland auf allen von ihm gewünschten Gebieten eine größere Entfaltung der Werbung zu ermöglichen. Es darf auch die Rücksicht auf die Not und das Elend der Zeit, auf den Mangel an Arbeit und Brot im Binnendeutschland den Blick nicht davon ablenken, daß die rund 30 Millionen Auslanddeutschen außerhalb der verengerten gegenwärtigen Reichsgrenzen ein Bestandteil des deutschen Gesamtvolkes sind, ein Bestandteil, dem die Reichsregierung zwar wirtschaftlich keine Hilfe zu bringen vermag, dem sie jedoch die kulturelle Stützung durch den in erster Linie hiermit befaßten Verein für das Deutschtum im Ausland zu ermöglichen sich verpflichtet hält.

Ich möchte daher die besondere Aufmerksamkeit der Regierungen der Länder auf die Tätigkeit des Vereins für das Deutschtum im Ausland mit

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dem Ziele lenken, daß ihm eine **bevorzugte Behandlung zuteil werde.** Vornehmlich sind es die Schulgruppen, die die Werbung des Vereins tragen, in denen sich zugleich eine überkonfessionelle und überparteiliche Erziehung der Jugend zum vaterländischen Denken vollzieht. Ich würde daher größten Wert darauf legen, daß seinen Schulsammlungen weitester Spielraum gewährt wird und daß auch den Schülern und Schülerinnen das Tragen von Abzeichen des Vereins innerhalb der Schule gestattet wird. Eine wirksame Belebung dieser Arbeit würde ich mir davon versprechen, wenn **die Leitung aller Schulen in ihren Jahresberichten über den Schulbetrieb auch über die Förderung des Vereins für das Deutschtum durch die Schulgruppen jeder Schule den vorgesetzten Behörden gegenüber sich zu äußern angehalten würden.**

Zur Weitung des gesamtdeutschen Bewußtseins der Jugend über die Reichsgrenzen hinweg hat im vergangenen Jahre, von besonderen Wünschen des Herrn Reichspräsidenten geleitet, im Berliner Stadion das „Fest der deutschen Schule" mit großem Erfolge abgehalten werden können. Im laufenden Kalenderjahr soll das „Fest der deutschen Schule" außerdem in Beuthen, Breslau, Erfurt, Düsseldorf, Gera, Gladbeck, Köslin, Köln, München, Nürnberg, Karlsruhe, Stettin u. a. stattfinden. Ich würde es begrüßen, wenn das „Fest der deutschen Schule" in weiten Kreisen des Reichs zur Einführung käme, da kein Vorhaben geeigneter ist, **alle** Schulen, somit auch gerade **die Volksschulen,** in den Dienst des Auslanddeutschtums zu stellen, während die große Reichstagung des VDA. stets nur Gruppen, vor allem solche der höheren Schulen, erfaßt. Ich beehre mich daher, die Regierungen der Länder besonders auf die Einführung des „Festes der deutschen Schule" hinzuweisen, damit die Schulbehörden veranlaßt werden, sich hinter die Veranstaltung zu stellen, und durch besondere Erlasse, wie es in Berlin geschehen ist, die Vorbereitungen des Festes erleichtern.

Neben der Schularbeit des Vereins für das Deutschtum im Ausland hat seine allgemeine Werbung in der Oeffentlichkeit an ernster Bedeutung für das Weiterbestehen der deutschen Volksgruppen im Ausland in demselben Ausmaße gewonnen, in dem angesichts der Finanzlage von Reich und Ländern die Möglichkeit aus Etatsmitteln unmittelbare Zuschüsse zu gewähren, geringer geworden ist. Im vergangenen Jahre hat mit Genehmigung des Preuß. Staatskommissars für die Regelung der Wohlfahrtspflege in ganz Preußen eine Landessammlung stattgefunden, die trotz der schlechten Wirtschaftslage angesichts des nationalen Erwachens des deutschen Volkes einen erfreulichen Erfolg gehabt hat, so daß es dem Verein gelungen ist, die erhebliche Verringerung seiner sonstigen Einnahmen durch die neuen Sammlungen annähernd auszugleichen. Die Bitte des Vereins, ihm durch Fürsprache bei den Regierungen der Länder die Durchführung dieser Landessammlung im ganzen Reichsgebiet zu ermöglichen, wird daher von mir lebhaft befürwortet. Der Erfolg der vorjährigen Sammlung war darauf zurückzuführen, daß in Preußen die Oberpräsidenten, die Regierungspräsidenten und die Landräte sich dankenswerterweise selbst in den Dienst der Sache gestellt haben. Ich wäre dankbar, wenn nunmehr alle Länderregierungen die Landessammlung zulassen und in gleicher Weise förderten.

Für eine zustimmende Aeußerung zu meinen vorstehenden Ausführungen, gegebenenfalls für eine Mitteilung über das bereits Veranlaßte wäre ich dankbar.

Dem Auswärtigen Amt habe ich Abschrift übersandt.

gez. Frick.

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(Translation)

VEREIN FÜR DAS DEUTSCHTUM IM AUSLAND
(LEAGUE FOR GERMANDOM IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES)
BERLIN W 30, MARTIN LUTHER STREET 97

THE REICH'S MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR IS FOR THE VDA WORK!

TRANSCRIPT II B 7855/27.4
THE REICH'S MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR
II B 7855/4.2

BERLIN, *February 24, 1933*

To the Governments of the Federal States
(*Landesregierungen*)

Re: Verein für das Deutschtum in Ausland,
(League for Germandom in Foreign Countries)
Deutscher Schulverein e.V.
(German School League, Inc.)

My Ministry in its attention to national tasks has to a special degree exercised protection over and furtherance of Germandom in the border countries and Germandom in foreign countries. A large number of institutions concerned with special tasks in this sphere are being supported as far as possible by means at my disposal. Among all these the *League for Germandom in Foreign Countries*, German School League, Inc., Berlin, enjoys an *especially favored position*. To its work carried on for half a century is due the maintenance of so many German schools, churches, newspapers, or other institutions in the German settlements in foreign countries. Without such maintenance of these institutions large German folk-groups, especially under the pressure of the post-war period, would have perished as cultural fertilizer for foreign peoples. Unfortunately in past years a certain reserve among wide circles of the population was noticeable with regard to the propaganda work of the above-named national League, and also administrative restrictions on its activities have not been left undone. It appears to me, therefore, as an urgent duty of the Reich and of the federal states not only to set aside such hindrances but also to enable the League for Germandom in Foreign Countries to unfold the increased propaganda work in all spheres which it desires. Also, regard for the needs and misery of the time, and for the lack of work and bread within Germany, ought not to divert attention from the fact that the around 30 million Germans

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in foreign countries (*Auslanddeutschen*) outside of the present contracted borders of the Reich are an integral part of the entire German people. They are an integral part, which the Reich's Government is not able to help economically, but whose cultural support through the league primarily concerned with this, the League for Germandom in Foreign Countries, it considers it is obligated to make possible.

I should like accordingly to direct the special attention of the governments of the federal states to the activity of the League for Germandom in Foreign Countries with the idea that it *be accorded privileged treatment*. It is primarily the school groups which carry on the propaganda work of the League, in which at the same time the education of the youth to patriotic thinking takes place, an education which is above denominational and party differences. I will, therefore, attach the greatest value to the fact that its school meetings be accorded the greatest freedom of action and that the pupils be allowed to wear the insignia of the League in the schools. I would expect an effective enlivenment of this work, *if the supervisors of all the schools, in their annual reports to their superior authorities concerning the school activities, will be urged to report the furtherance of the League by the school groups of each school.*

Last year, in accordance with the particular desire of the Reich's President, the "German School Celebration", aiming to extend the pan-German consciousness of our youth beyond the borders of the Reich, was held with great success in the Berlin Stadium. Moreover, in the current year the "German School Celebration" is to take place in Beuthen, Breslau, Erfurt, Düsseldorf, Gera, Gladbeck, Köslin, Cologne, Munich, Nuremberg, Karlsruhe, and Stettin, among others. I would welcome it, if the "German School Celebration" could be introduced extensively through the Reich, since no project is more suited to put *all* the schools, and especially the *elementary* schools, in the service of Germandom in foreign countries, while the big national assembly of the VDA always affects only groups, primarily those from the higher schools. I am honored, therefore, to refer the governments of the federal states especially to the introduction of the "German School Celebration", so that the school authorities may be induced to support this event and to facilitate the preparations for the celebration by special orders, as has occurred in Berlin.

Along with the school work of the League for Germandom in Foreign Countries, its general propaganda work among the public has assumed greater significance for the continuance of the German folk-groups in foreign countries in the same measure in which, in view of the financial situation of the Reich and of the federal states, the possibility of granting direct subsidies from the budget has become smaller. In the last year, with the approval of the Prussian State Commissar

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for the Regulation of Relief Work, a collection has taken place in all Prussia and, despite the poor economic situation, has had gratifying results in view of the national awakening of the German people, so that the League has approximately succeeded through the new collections in compensating for the considerable decrease of its other income. The request of the League, by intercession with the governments of the federal states to enable it to carry out this collection throughout the whole of the Reich, is accordingly most cordially seconded by me. The success of last year's collection was due to the fact that in Prussia the Senior Presidents, the Governing Presidents, and the State Councilors have devoted themselves to the service of the cause in the most commendable way. I would be grateful if all the governments of the federal states permit this collection and further it in the same way.

I would appreciate an answer approving my preceding remarks, and in the given case a report concerning what has already been done.

I have sent a copy to the Foreign Office.

Signed, FRICK

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The end of Dr. Csaki's annual report included the following remarks: "After sixteen years of its existence the DAI is concluding the first great span of its development. *The second stage*, upon which we are entering, stands under the influence of the *great happenings in the German fatherland and the great psychic fulfilment of the entire German racial community.* It must and will be borne by the great ideas of the *education and mission of our Nation in foreign countries.* With every part of his [Dr. Csaki's] being he pledges himself to service for Germandom and to the work of the Institute, and *he vows* that it will be *accomplished in the spirit of the new state and in the sense of the National Socialist ideology.*"

Article 4

(*N.S. Kurier*, September 21, 1933)

In this article a passage of Minister-President Mergenthaler's speech at the 1933 session of the DAI is quoted as follows: "The rise of National Socialism has had fruitful results in all fields of activity and has also given new strength to the work of Germanism. The work of the DAI and other organizations which have undertaken the protection of Germans has for the first time experienced a proper appreciation since they have become united with the Brown Front. In recent years we have been concerned because the protection of Germans abroad did not enjoy the necessary close ties with the Brown warriors of German National Socialism. Previously only a formal concept of citizenship has been current. The German revolution has dispensed with this formal concept of citizenship. Racial relationship based on blood ties is the foundation on which the DAI and the entire task of protecting Germanism abroad is erected."

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL

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